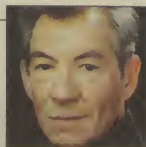


Castro's Catholic pastor moves on
Most Holy Redeemer throws a party
for departing Father Zachary Shore.
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To Sir with love
Celebrity Grand Marshal of
Pride '02, Sir Ian McKellen.
see Arts section



We mean business!
LGBT entrepreneurs come
out in our Pride section.
see third section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 26 • 27 June 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Pride hits SF!

by Zak Szymanski

There's a reason that people from all over the world flock to the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration. This year's event, with the theme, "Be Yourself, Change the World," boasts no fewer than 10 entertainment stages, each bringing its own unique flavor to the gayest weekend on Earth. And the parade itself is expected to feature more than 7,500 participants, more motorized contingents than ever before, and the addition of five newly purchased floats, making for a visually and intellectually pleasing spectacle when the parade winds along Market Street on Sunday, June 30.

"This year's event promises to be one of the most spectacular ever," Teddy Witherington, executive director of San Francisco Pride, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "There's a

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The Brain Chest Calculator float at last year's Pride Parade

Danere / PhotoGraphics

Bush signs Mychal Judge Act

by Bob Roehr

President George W. Bush signed the Mychal Judge Act into law on Monday, June 24. The legislation makes it easier for beneficiaries of public safety officers killed in the line of duty to collect a \$250,000 federal death benefit. It was named after the gay priest killed in the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Conservative Republican Representative Donald Manzullo (Illinois) introduced the measure last November to close a loophole by expanding the definition of survivors from that of spouses, children, and parents as it appeared in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

His intent was to include chaplains who may not have such traditional survivors, though he realized that the wording also would allow coverage for gay and lesbian survivors. Representative

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Jane Philomeni Cleland

Women and trannies keep Dyke March going strong

by Zak Szymanski



Dykes march in last year's Dyke March.

Some will sing the praises of slick LGBT Pride events, and others will bemoan the corporate sponsorship of mainstream gay culture, but for the more radical at heart there has always been the Dyke March, an event that never ceases to be as political as it is sexy and social.

Launched by San Francisco and New York activists in Washington, D.C., in 1993 as a spontaneous alternative to mainstream Pride parades, the San Francisco event continues to be the most (in)famous of all the Dyke Marches in the country. Its 50,000-plus crowd takes over several city blocks, cheered on by rowdy supporters holding signs (spotted last year: "I came out of a vagina") and live nude group scenes from the apartment windows along the route.

This year's Dyke March will be dedicated to activist-poet June Jordan, who died earlier this month of breast cancer. The theme of the march will be "Dykes for Peace, Peace for Dykes," and the message will be distinctly

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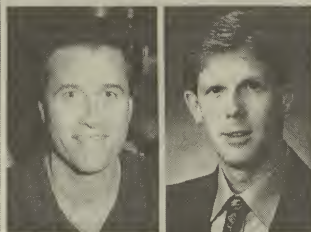
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Swingin' at any age



Older gay men and their friends took in the atmosphere of Harry Denton's Starlight Room in downtown San Francisco Sunday, June 23 at the second annual Geezers' Ball, sponsored by the Stop AIDS Project. The AIDS service organization also presented the first Harry Hay Award to longtime gay activist Jordan Lee, who founded the G40+ (now Prime Timers) group for mid-life and senior gay men in 1973.

Pride parties raise funds for nonprofits

by Matthew S. Bajko

Circuit queens will have a chance to put their partying to good use this weekend as several local nonprofits will benefit from funds raised at a host of Pride parties this year.

For the first time, the city's various party promoters — usually competing with each other for business — have joined forces to sell tickets for seven different events. The promoters hope to help increase revenue for the Noble Beast Foundation, the all-volunteer, nonprofit producers of "ReUnion 2002, Brave New World," providing certain admission and/or line privileges to holders of the Pride Pass.

Promoters of the "Ball of Pride," "Splash!," "Bump," "Rising," "Mass," and the new "West Coast DJ Showcase" have teamed together to include their events on the "Seven Party Pride Pass" for

this year's San Francisco Pride weekend. The party pass costs \$125.

The alliance promises to boost ticket sales for ReUnion, the "Official Saturday Night Dance Party" for San Francisco Pride weekend, hosted by the Noble Beast Foundation. The foundation pays no salaries to its volunteers who produce ReUnion and passes all net proceeds to its community partners.

This year those partners include the API Wellness Center, Continuum, Maitri Compassionate Care, Positive Resource Center, and the Stop AIDS Project. Also, Rising, the Sunday morning party, will donate \$5 of every ticket sold to the new LGBT Community Center.

And a change from previous years, this year the responsibility for strategic planning and integrating tasks has been given to the beneficiaries. Positive Resource Center is managing the volunteers

who will assist in the production of ReUnion and Stop AIDS Project is managing all advertising.

Previously, the Noble Beast board members and the members of the leadership council selected the beneficiaries who were not involved with the production of ReUnion. A significant part of the reorganization was to help decrease production costs and to increase net proceeds that will be divided amongst the five beneficiaries. The Noble Beast board also extended the collaboration with their beneficiaries to a three-year term.

"Now these production partners can refine their area of responsibility and theoretically become more efficient and effective as they move up the learning curve from year to year," said Don Spradlin, president of the Noble Beast Foundation board.

For more information on the Pride Pass, parties, and where to buy tickets, visit www.noblebeast.org. ▼

Sisters' grants deadline next month

by Zak Szymanski

Now is the time for nonprofits to consider applying for one of several grants of up to \$750, to be awarded by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in August.

The Sisters will be accepting proposals for projects until July 26. Traditionally, the Sisters give grants to under-funded, smaller organizations and projects pro-

viding direct services, "especially progressive projects that promote wellness, identity and diversity within various queer communities," according to a statement.

To qualify, groups must provide proof of 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and demonstrate specific need such as start-up costs, program incentives, direct service costs, and scholarships. Grants are not awarded for salaries, general operating expenses, travel, or an

individual's project.

Proposals should be mailed to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Grants Committee, PMB 392, 584 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Checks will be distributed to the selected groups at the Eagle Tavern on Sunday, August 11.

For more information, contact Sister Hedra Sexual at nun@monkeybrains.net, or visit www.the-sisters.org. ▼

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Taggers hit AIDS Grove with anti-gay graffiti

by Matthew S. Bajko

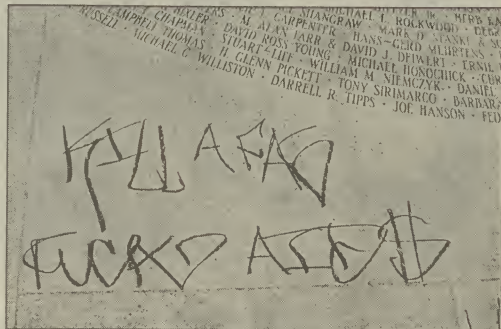
A week after the death of Officer Jon C. Cook, the city's first openly gay cop to be killed in the line of duty, vandals spray painted homophobic words at the National AIDS Memorial Grove and referred to the best friend of the fallen officer in one of the tags.

According to police, the taggers wrote an offensive remark about Sergeant Chuck Limbert, the first openly gay sergeant at Mission Station and best friends with Cook, who died Wednesday, June 12 in a collision between two patrol cars. Limbert, who serves as a liaison to the gay community for the police station and formerly oversaw the city's graffiti abatement unit, said the incident at the grove is in direct relationship to the death of Cook.

"I do believe that, because I have been on key lately, openly grieving over the loss of my best friend who happens to be an officer and is gay and there was a lot of attention to that," Limbert told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It awakens a lot of deep conflicts in individuals. I was a focal point, and it was a way to send a message to me."

Police are investigating the incident as a hate crime and say they do have several leads in the case as to who committed the vandalism.

"It is an active investigation



Anti-gay graffiti at the National AIDS Memorial Grove

and we are putting a lot of resources into it. We consider it very serious," said Officer Christopher Putz with the graffiti unit.

Caretakers of the grove, which was conceived in 1989 and is the country's only national AIDS memorial, said they have never experienced this type of damage to the wooden basin site in Golden Gate Park. The taggers left more than a dozen offensive re-

marks on the memorial.

"It is a public place so we are not immune to that, but we have never had something like this on this large a scale," said Rick Pavich, the grove's executive director. "We have had problems with graffiti in different parts of the grove but on a much more smaller scale and never hateful. It might be someone's name written somewhere."

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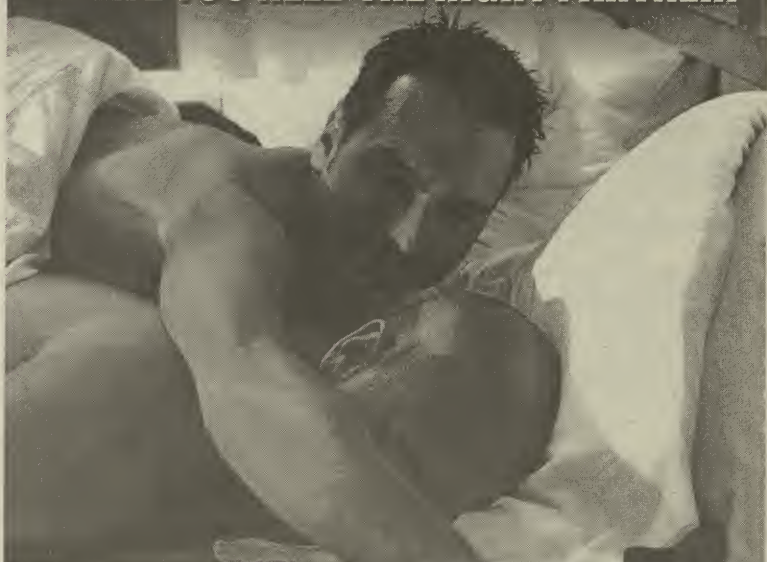
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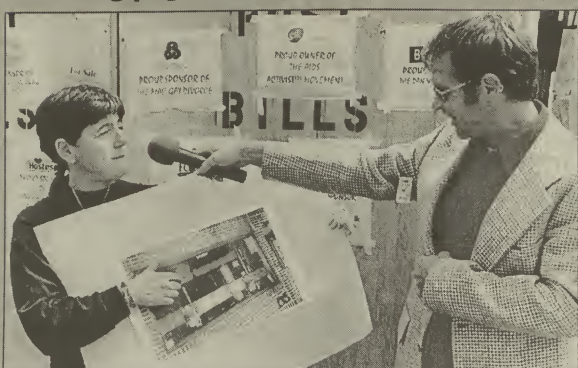
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Going, going, gone?



Julie Starobin, left, brings the Stonewall Inn to the auctioneer at the "Queer Antiques Roadshow," in the Castro June 22, wanting to know how much it will cost to "sell out" to the highest bidder. Lesbian and Gay Insurrection spoofed the television show to point out and protest the increasing commercialization of Pride celebrations.

The end of an era

Mission's Bearded Lady facing closure

by Zak Szymanski

Spoken word artists, old-school punks, and anyone with a sense of loyalty to community institutions will experience more than a big disappointment this week when the Bearded Lady Truckstop Cafe closes its doors at 14th and Guerrero streets.

Long a landmark for San Francisco's lesbian scene, Red Dora's Bearded Lady Truckstop Cafe was founded more than 10 years ago by a handful of local dykes, including the renowned performance artist Harriet Dodge. It has played host to countless community events throughout the years, is famous for its tasteless T-shirts, and has served the locals with food, a back patio, a hang-out space, bulletin board, and impromptu art gallery.

But its location has been a hindrance, said current owner Len Plass, who took over the store a



The Bearded Lady Cafe is closing.

few years ago, and as more dyke-themed events move further up Mission and Valencia streets, "we just don't have the queer customer base," she said.

"Our queer customers like to have the space there, and have it in

their in their heads as another dyke space in the city, but it's just not where dykes live anymore. It's much nicer for them to be on 16th rather than stroll down toward 14th."

Plass said she plans the closure during Pride weekend, although her plans are tentative. And there is still hope, she said, that the cafe could be revived in a different location.

"I know a lot of people are going to feel sad about the closure whether they've been there or not," said Plass. "It's a great place. And we have done fundraisers to try to keep it open, but what we need is a regular customer base."

"I need people in there," said Plass. "Every day I would need customers to pack that place in order for it to survive." ▼

Visit the Bearded Lady before it's too late at 485 14th Street in San Francisco.

Celebrate July 4 with LGBT family picnic

by Cynthia Laird

For the fifth consecutive year, Yerba Buena Gardens is hosting the "Ol' Fashioned" Fourth of July Alternative Family Picnic next Thursday that will feature lots of fun-filled entertainment for kids and families.

Co-sponsored by the Alternative Family Institute, the Jon Sims center for the Arts, and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, the event is an opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in couples and families to celebrate Independence Day together

and to celebrate each other.

The picnic is free and runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. People should bring their own picnic food and beverages.

"The Ol' Fashioned Fourth of July Alternative Family Picnic is one of San Francisco's most unique family traditions," said Mario Garcia Durham, executive director of Yerba Buena Arts and Events. "The day is about celebrating America's true family values of love, laughter, support, and sharing."

"Back in 1993, when AFI was founded, we were the first non-profit family counseling agency in

the United States exclusively devoted to the well-being of LGBT individuals in couples and families," said Robert-Jay Green, executive director of AFI. Green added that several thousand people now attend the July 4 event.

This year's picnic will feature the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band; Dixieland Dykes +3; Jackie Jones and Her Tap Dancing Cat; Mr. Patty-Cake, the Rainbow Clown; a cakewalk with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; karaoke for kids; animal call contests; and zany prizes.

For more information about the event, call (415) 543-1718. ▼

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SLDN hosts SF event

by Cynthia Laird

Hoping to drum up support for their work trying to stop the U.S. military from drumming out gay and lesbian personnel, staff and board members from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network hosted a reception in downtown San Francisco earlier this month in advance of the group's popular "Red, White, and Blue Angels" event that takes place during Fleet Week in the fall.

"The event was a success," board co-chair René Puliatti told the *Bay Area Reporter* shortly after the June 12 reception, which was held at the swank W Hotel, which donated the space. About \$17,000 was raised, including a generous \$10,000 gift from an individual who did not wish to be publicly named.

SLDN was formed in response to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that President Clinton signed into law in 1993. Since then, SLDN has assisted more than 3,600 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and straight service members harmed by DADT. SLDN provides direct legal assistance, as well as outreach and educational work with military officials to help ensure that as long as DADT is in effect, it will be administered according to the law. SLDN's primary goal is to lift the ban against gays and lesbians serving openly in the military.

C. Dixon Osburn, SLDN's executive director, noted that with the country fighting the war on terrorism, the military still would



SLDN's C. Dixon Osburn

rather discharge gay and lesbian soldiers rather than have them fight terrorists and perhaps capture Osama bin Laden.

"The Pentagon kicks out three to four people every single day for being lesbian, gay, or bisexual," Osburn said. "This is our federal government and it says we are second-class citizens."

The military has fired twice as many women, proportionally, as men, and has spent more than \$230 million to fire those service members, according to SLDN.

Osburn said that SLDN has made inroads with officials in the Bush administration, some of whom have told him that they know SLDN does good work. Osburn also said that the Army has done more than any other military branch in terms of working to fairly implement DADT and curtail harassment among the troops. That may be in response to the brutal murder of Private First Class Barry Winchell, who was

killed at the Fort Campbell Army Base in Kentucky.

"We have some inroads but the bigger question – getting rid of the policy – is up to Congress and right now, Congress isn't there," Osburn said.

Studies conducted by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara have found that in the United Kingdom, which allows gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, it has been a "non-event" and the studies found that sexual harassment went "way down in the military," Osburn noted.

He added that one of the things SLDN would like to do is to hire a lobbyist to work on its behalf and lobby members of Congress around overturning DADT.

And SLDN's work continues. On Monday the organization issued a statement blasting the Air Force Reserves for illegally asking recruits about their sexual orientation. According to SLDN, the form in question – last updated in 1987, six years before the implementation of DADT – includes two questions regarding an applicant's sexual orientation. Both questions are in violation of federal law, said SLDN legal director Sharra E. Greer.

SLDN has contacted Air Force officials about the apparently outdated form. ▼

For more information about SLDN, call (202) 328-3244 or visit www.sldn.org.

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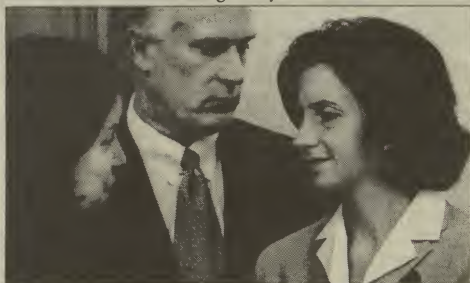
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OPEN FORUM

Out and proud

Come out! If you're already an out and proud dyke, gay man, bisexual, or transgender person, celebrate this weekend's Pride Parade and Celebration to the fullest. Whether you're marching with a contingent in San Francisco's world-famous parade, or cheering marchers on from the sidelines, your presence this Sunday is important. By being there, you're telling the religious right and other homophobes that you're here and you're queer. They better get used to it!

As hundreds of thousands of people line Market Street for our biggest party of the year, your presence sends a strong message to the nation and the world that there is strength in numbers. One of the beauties of our Pride celebration is that virtually every group, cause, and political view is represented in the parade. Last year saw gay Muslims marching for the first time. This year, Native American gays will have their first float ever in a parade. Contingents advocating gay marriage will march behind or in front of those protesting the increased commercialization of Pride weekend.

If you're not out, we urge you to consider taking that step this weekend. Yes, we know it's not easy. We know many face the loss of family support or a job. And yes, we know that despite our strong belief that coming out is the best way for us to change people's minds about us, some are not able to take that step right now. Perhaps some are serving in the military, with its hideous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Or perhaps they are an immigrant to this country and not a legal resident, which also presents problems.

But for those not facing such circumstances, coming out is, in the long term, a liberating experience that can ultimately lead to a better, more honest life. Some of the honorary Pride marshals reflect on this fact in essays appearing in this issue.

Since last June, the world has changed in

the aftermath of September 11. We too lost heroes that day, and some of them, like Mark Bingham and Father Mychal Judge, have been recognized for their efforts. On Monday, President Bush signed the Mychal Judge Act into law. The act makes it easier for beneficiaries of public safety officers killed in the line of duty to collect a \$250,000 federal death benefit, even if they are lesbian or gay. So while the president still refuses to issue a gay Pride proclamation, he signed a law named after a gay New York City Fire Department chaplain — that's at least something to celebrate. Bingham, of course, was honored by another Republican, Arizona

Senator John McCain, who spoke at his memorial service.

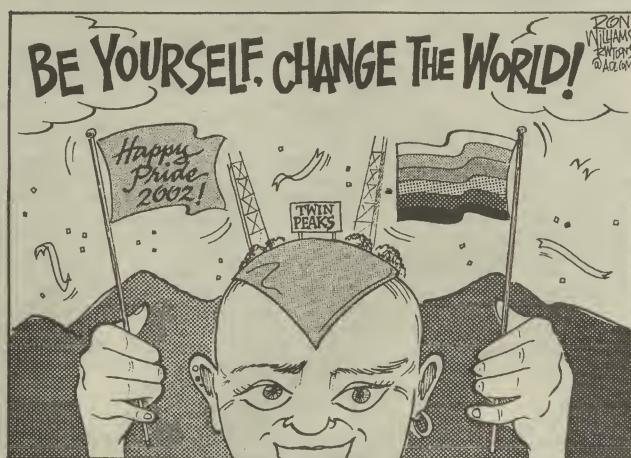
These two cases demonstrate that despite a taboo in Republican politics, the GOP is being forced to acknowledge we exist. And by coming out, no matter what your political persuasion, you add to our numbers; you add to our demand for equality; you help politicians stand up and take notice of us.

So come out. Come out in demonstration of our strength and diversity. Come out to show the world that we are a vibrant community, committed to ending discrimination, and filled with the desire to change the world for the better.

But most of all, come out for yourself! ▼



Editorial



Pride: More than just queer

by Barry Saiff

At the age of 9 I was not very aware of my sexuality. I grew up in a liberal Jewish family in New Jersey. I remember one Sunday my father read in the newspaper about a gay march. He remarked that it was okay that they were gay, but why couldn't they just be quiet about it? I said, "Daaaaa! What if Jews needed to march now, someone could be saying that about us!"

My father looked up at me and said, "You're right."

Looking back on that moment, I realize it holds a key to the meaning of Pride. Discrimination continues. We still need to march. I can't be legally fired for being Jewish in this country, but in most states I can be legally fired for being bisexual.

It took me decades to figure out that I'm bisexual. Why so long? Because bisexuality was invisible. When I was a teenager the B-word was not heard much. I didn't hear it until my 20s.

Many people say the word is limiting. Bisexual doesn't express the diversity of the continuum of sexual orientation. It assumes the existence of only two genders. Yes, I agree. But I also owe a great debt to that word. Without it I would still be very confused about who I am.

If you are considering whether to call yourself a bisexual, go ahead. Try it on for size. Wear it proudly. Yes, it's a label, and each of us is more than you can fit into a frozen-food container. But labels can make a difference. Before you throw away the label, see how others wear it. Join a bisexual organization. You can go to the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco where the Bay Area Bisexual Network has an office. Nationally you can join BiNet USA.

The bisexual movement has made great progress in the last 15 years. Bisexuality is no longer completely invisible. It's in the news, in movies, talked about. LGT organizations are more bi-friendly and bi-inclu-

sive than they were 10 years ago. I am proud of the work of hundreds of bisexual activists, who have struggled to forward lesbian, gay, transgendered, and bisexual rights valiantly and persistently.

We have a lot left to do, to educate people about bisexuality and to win equality for LGBT people. But do we have the right strategies to achieve the kinds of changes in society that we want?

We need deeper and bolder goals. And we need to ignite effective partnerships with other communities.

Let's create a world in which loving relationships are supported not because of their form, but because of their quality. Exactly one of gender A and one of gender B does not by itself make a healthy relationship. What makes a healthy relationship is love, honesty, compassion, consideration, devotion, and forgiveness.

We need an expanded and deepened model of healthy loving relationships. And it is not only queer people who need this. How many marriages end in divorce? Have you noticed that this monogamy thing does not work for everyone?

How do we create a society that is wise about supporting loving relationships? I'm not sure. But I know this: We can't do it alone. And there are many others who can help us.

How many? A recent book answers that question: *The Cultural Creatives: How 50 Million People Are Changing the World*, by Paul Ray and Sherry Anderson. They bring their backgrounds in demography and psychology to bear on an analysis of hundreds of polls and studies. They conclude that in the U.S. alone there are 50 million people who want to create a better world, not by re-



Barry Saiff

turning to traditional values, but by making society more supportive of their own largely progressive values.

This is a vitally important book, for all social change movements. Everyone, LGBT or not, would fare better in a society where loving relationships are not undermined. What kind of political system can best support loving relationships? What kind of economic regulations? What impact have our cur-

rent laws and customs had on the diversity of people and relationships in our land? How do we create more inclusive structures? These are the areas we need to study.

It's time to think big. It's time to think long term. It may take us 50 years. We need a strategy to get there.

Each of us is more than just our sexual orientation. We need to be active participants in the other movements we are each part of, and build bridges between these movements.

We can create an expanded and deepened model of loving relationships. We can generate the underpinnings for a broader movement, in theory, research, coalition-building, and communication. We have worked in coalition with others around political and legislative issues. We need to work with other groups on fundamental strategy.

No, we have not won all of our own battles. But it is time to declare, not victory, but sufficiency — the ability to take our successes, our community, and give back to the whole. We need to think with and identify with more than just the queer part of us, if we want to be treated as more than just queer. ▼

Barry Saiff is an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade. For more essays by honorary marshals of the parade, see pages 21-22, and the Pride section.

LETTERS

A time of Pride and vigilance

As we enter this week of Pride celebration I am caught in the conflict between a sense of Pride and a feeling of sadness and shame. Last year I had the honor of writing an essay about my feelings of Pride as a Leather titleholder and what Pride meant. In the *Bay Area Reporter*, I talked of the wonderful reasons we all have for our sense of Pride in our community and ourselves. At that time, I also attempted to stress the importance of our vote in this world of conflict with those that would like us to return to the closet or worse. This very issue has become the cause of sadness and anger in my life.

All of us are aware that we are lacking some very basic rights granted to the heterosexual community. The rights most evidently lacking are those granted to persons marrying under the law. As we proceed through life, we compensate for this denied right by the observance of commitment ceremonies, adoptions, and mountains of legal documents to try and ensure that those we love are protected as much as possible. There are times that no amount of legal work can truly protect that union, but my partner and I have found that the system can be far crueler. It can keep you apart – legally – while a citizen and resident of the United States.

I had the good fortune to meet a man that has touched my heart in the way no other has. A man that I can honestly say has become my life. The unfortunate situation is that he is not an American. In the past, it has always been difficult to sustain international relationships. Since September 11, the burden has become almost impossible. Our borders have become tighter and power granted to those to protect us can be used to keep those we love out of the country. The border official with a touch of homophobia has the power to create an impossible situation for those trying to stay together. The choices that most are experiencing today are to move to the country of their partner's, have enough money and time to travel freely, or end the relationship. None of these are easy and add additional burdens to those fighting to maintain a loving relationship in a world already beset with obstacles.

After many years of residing in San Francisco, my partner, Remi, and I will be leaving the city we love to head to Canada. It means saying goodbye to the friends, family, institutions, and the beauty of San Francisco. Fortunately Canada has joined several of the more enlightened countries of the civilized world. They have passed a law designed to protect the rights of all citizens, so as not to be excluded by certain practices such as the institution of marriage. The new law is called the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. It comes into force on June 28. It allows sponsorship rights for common law couples (couples who have lived together for at least one year) and conjugal couples (who have been in a relationship for one year, but have not cohabited for one year). These rights are extended to same-sex couples even when one of the partners is not Canadian. It is sad that America, where the Constitution proclaims the rights of all to "... life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness ..." cannot truly claim to be the land of the free.

So, with deep regret, we are compelled to leave this special city, one with a proud history of tolerance, to settle in Toronto. On leaving I am hopeful that others will take up the sense of urgency and fight for their rights as human beings. Every vote, no matter how frustrating the outcome of an election or proposition, is one more voice that will be heard. When we all vote as is our right and duty, there may come the day when America can join its place among the truly free and compassionate nations of the world.

David Kloss
International Mr. Leather 1979
San Francisco

Never liked pink triangle

Regarding "Volunteers needed to install pink triangle" [June 20]: I've never liked the pink triangle on Twin Peaks. The eastern slope of Twin Peaks is an environmentally sensitive area, home to rare plants and endangered butterflies. I think we in the gay community need to ask ourselves what kind of message we're sending when we intrude on such an area with "the hundreds of pink tarps and the thousands of 12-inch tent stakes used to hold the canvasses to the hillside." I think the display gives the impression that we as a community are neither very good neighbors nor thoughtful stewards of our environment. I would hope that we can retire this tradition and find ways to celebrate "Our Big Day" and get our message across in a manner less disruptive to the natural world.

Kurt True
El Cerrito, California

Castroguys welcomes you

It's that time of year again, when our fair city functions as the "Pride Pilgrimage" site for gay men from all over the globe. As a member of the Castroguys, a group working to open a gay men's health and well-

ness center in the Castro, I'd like to say, "Welcome!" We're prepared to do our part, offering up the unique hospitality here in "Sodom-by-the-Sea."

Whether you cheer as the Women's Motorcycle Contingent roars by, indulge yourself at our wide range of watering holes, or simply cruise the sidewalks, we'll be eager to help you celebrate. Since so many scantily clad gay men visiting in June find themselves surprised by our chilly summer nights, it's become an unwritten rule that all available locals should offer them a hot time. Just ask!

Whether you're visiting or you live here, I'd like to suggest that Pride is more than just a parade, it's an attitude. For instance, how about creating a supportive, sex-positive community with the people around you every day?

When our storefront opens this fall, it will be a place to build community. And that'll be something we can be proud of all year round. If you'd like to know more, check out www.castroguys.org. Might I suggest you use our grand opening as an excellent reason to "come back and see us, sometime"?

Keith Folger and the Castroguys
San Francisco

Dean for prez – not

I was fascinated to read that Jean Harris has signed on as a campaign aide to Vermont Governor Howard Dean [*"Harris to aid Dean presidential campaign," June 13*]. As a Californian who has witnessed firsthand the benefits brought by Proposition 215 to people fighting AIDS, cancer and other serious illnesses, perhaps she can educate the governor on the issue.

This spring Vermont nearly passed a medical marijuana bill similar to (though stricter than) Proposition 215. The votes were there, but Governor Dean's relentless arm-twisting of legislative leaders succeeded in strangling the measure. As a result, Vermont PWAs will have to risk jail for at least another year.

B.A.R. readers will recall that when confronted about the issue during a visit to San Francisco, Dean responded with a series of whoppers – claiming, among other things, that the bill "legalizes marijuana" and allows possession of as much as three pounds. If such insulting, obvious falsehoods are what we get when our friends' lives are at stake, how will he treat us on other issues?

Governor Dean enters the 2004 presidential race as the only candidate who has successfully killed a medical marijuana bill. If you think jail is healthier for people with AIDS than medical marijuana, Dean is your candidate.

Bruce Mirken
Washington, D.C.

Film fest is boring

It has become very PC not to criticize LGBT events, but I find I cannot keep still any longer. This year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is boring!

I don't mean the films, they are fair to great. I mean the festival itself. I wouldn't be so hard on the organizers, except that I know they have done better. Two years ago, the year we first went, the festival was an event that should not be missed. This year is flat and not very exciting. The Castro might as well just show the movies themselves and cut the ticket prices.

Many things are causing a "blah" feeling for 18 days, and that is the main problem – 18 days is too long. In past years, we would take off from work for a week. This year we can't take two weeks off, so we only go at night.

The first week has recently ended and the festival staff and volunteers are already sounding and acting tired. They have stretched out the film schedule, making a lot of wasted time between shows, and then they hardly ever start the movie on time. Why? They seemed to start films on time during the past couple of years.

The intro film is another thing. What is with that waterfall? I know it is supposed to be part of a theme, but what is it? In past years, those intros said something; this year we hiss. It does go with the posters on the street lights, which are so gray that unless you know what it is, you don't know what it is. It is like they are trying to hide the fact that they have a festival. Come out of the closet!

We miss the tent in the parking lot. When we first came to the festival, it helped create the "feel" of the event. (It wasn't there last year either.) I asked one of the staff why they didn't have it and they said it was to get bigger places for parties. But bigger places do not make better parties. The opening night party was really disappointing. We were at Margaret Cho, and by the time we got to the party all the food was gone. I hope that is fixed for closing night.

I don't know why these choices were made for the festival, but if it wasn't broke, why did they try to fix it? Was it a change in design plan or did they lose people who knew what they were doing?

Let's hope that next year's festival is the exciting
next page ►

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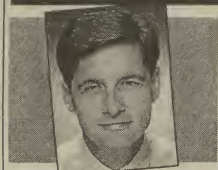
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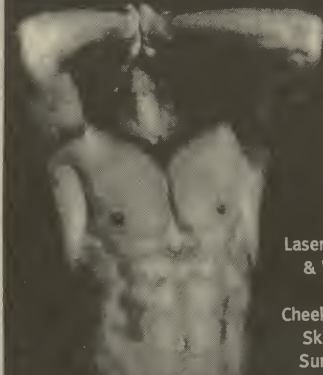
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Mailstrom

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event it was and please, make it a reasonable number of days.

Janet Lei-Su
San Francisco**Pride has become too corporate**

I can't even begin to tell you how excited I was that I would be able to participate in my first San Francisco Pride Parade this year. Having only been a resident of this wonderful city for a little over a year, I missed last year's parade and was looking forward to being a part of it this year.

No such luck.

I have sadly come to the realization that the Pride Parade has become a mass media and corporate forum. The parade no longer seems to stand for the values that it once held, nor does it appear to be an open forum for the GLBT community to express themselves. The Pride Parade as I see it, has become a corporation, and like any corporation, the motive is profit and media.

One of the biggest gripes that I have is with the entry fee for the parade, which can be up to \$300 for an individual if you don't sign up by a certain deadline. Even if you sign up at the earliest possible time, it will still be \$50 for an individual. This leads me to the conclusion that I will not see the homeless gay man or the flat broke lesbian marching in the parade this year. So much for representation of the entire GLBT community. Something smells elitist to me.

The San Francisco Pride Parade is being sponsored by the likes of Coca-Cola and Bud Light. On a smaller level, this reeks of a sellout. On a larger level, the implications of this are downright contrary to everything our GLBT brothers and sisters fought for during the past 30 years. I can almost see them looking down and shaking their heads at the whole affair.

Let's get real folks. The big boys at Coca-Cola, Bud Light, MasterCard and United Airlines could care less about the gay Pride Parade. First of all, it took a legal battle, many petitions, and several boycotts to get United Airlines to provide domestic partner benefits to its employees, and they only succumbed to the agreement under pressure from activists and human rights organizations. Big corporations do not care about the rights of the gay community, but if they can make a buck or two by sponsoring the parade then they are on it like white on rice.

In my opinion, the parade is now a corporation. If not already, the S.F. gay Pride Parade should have its own trademark just to make it official. It is a walking rainbow colored commercial including celebrity endorsements. Celebrities, that's right. The parade has plenty of celebrities in it this year including some celebrities who haven't done a damn thing for gay rights.

What this all boils down to is the fact that, although we appear to be progressing, we are in fact regressing. We are selling out to money and corporations like a mom and pop shop selling out to the next big corporate franchise. The Pride Parade is no longer a grassroots effort. We need to band together, speak out, and fight the good fight. Marching behind the wall of corporate America will do nothing but perpetuate a stereotype and an agenda contrary to the progression of human rights. If the Pride Parade is San Francisco's most anticipated event of the year, let's have it be rooted in something more than corporate sponsorship, merchandise, high entry fees, exclusion, and elitism. I will be marching in the Dyke March this year, which is a pleasant alternative to selling my lesbian pride to Master Card.

Michelle Walsh
San Francisco**Don't wake him up**

This is a response to Tom McCloskey's letter, "Consider collateral issues" [Mailstrom, May 30]: Hey there, Tom, be very careful about which Jews you want to send to the wax museum. I'm sure any Jew—lesbian, gay, or straight—can find the little statue of Hitler you described right between your legs. I, myself, would even vote for tattooing an extra, tiny swastika on it, just because there are only "all three of (you) in the politically conservative gay community."

It sounds as if you feel like part of an "oppressed group" yourself. How strange that this should make me feel like oppressing you even more. I just can't say your "suggestion" to Kate Raphael makes me feel like engaging any liberal ideas about your rights. Tough luck, Tom. She might even be a pacifist. Not all of us are.

Don't wake me up again, Tom. Not even to tell me you danced when some mosque burned down.

Eddy Falconer
San Francisco**Gay man needs help**

My name is Troy Young. Last August I met Adam Ezerski. Adam and I went out to dinner the first evening, the next day he went with my friends and myself to our gay bowling league. The following morning, much to my dismay, the top news story was about an alleged killer, a supposed monster on a cross-country killing spree. I happened to be in the same room with the accused. What I felt, what I was a witness to, plus the past 48 hours told me there was something totally wrong with the whole picture.

I helped Adam, tried to get him to turn himself in to the police, but broke the law by harboring him in the process. Now, I'm in federal custody facing a maximum of 10 years. My attorney and I need character references from my friends and acquaintances to put before the judge to possibly help reduce my sentence. Any letters can be sent to my attorney, David Fermino, Assistant Federal Public Defender, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Troy Young
Dublin, California**Another view of Mideast conflict**

I would like to comment on Mikeal Levi's version of history in his letter, "Refugees treated as pawns" in the May 30 issue.

Levi would have us believe that Israelis have bent over backwards to accommodate the Palestinians they displaced through emigration and wars. This is not how I read the history of Palestine and the founding of Israel in the mid-20th century.

From the start of the Zionist movement in the 1880s, the aim of which was to found a Jewish state in the Mideast, emigrating Jews and their heirs have had one, singular goal: to provide a secure homeland for a maximum number of Jews who wanted to settle there. Arabs in Palestine objected to this influx of European Jews, and up until the end of World War II, they were supported by the British who held the mandate from the League of Nations to govern Palestine and regulate emigration there.

Jewish emigration was severely limited by the so-called White Paper, which Levi characterizes as a British land charter that Arabs rejected. This regulation of 1937 was loathed by Jews in Palestine, because it prevented Jews in Nazi Germany from escaping to a safe homeland in Palestine. It so angered some Jews that they formed extremist groups, notably the Stern Gang, to assault, terrorize, and kill British occupation forces.

If could be said that the Stern Gang was the first terrorist organization in the Mideast. As a friend of mine at the U.S. State Department once put it: "Terrorism? The Palestinians learned everything they know from the Israelis." Today, a correction is in order: Jewish terrorists in 1937 and later did not engage in suicide bombings. But they set a dangerous precedent for achieving political objectives in Palestine and later, the state of Israel—terror.

Unlike Levi, who paints Israelis as a beneficent people ever so patient and indulgent toward rebellious, discontented Arabs they have displaced, I would maintain that Israel's genius has been to reject publicly the activities of its extremist groups while enjoying the fruits of their terrorist activities. The Stern Gang was replaced by the Irgun, another guerrilla group whose leader, Menachem Begin, would eventually become prime minister of Israel. It was the Irgun who exploded bombs at the King David Hotel that would kill 20 and wound 70 British soldiers and civilians.

But enough of history. Any friend and supporter of Israel should worry about the effort to build a "security wall" to shield Israelis from the West Bank Palestinians. Instead of reaching an accommodation with Palestinians, Israelis seem determined to become the world's first ghetto-nation. The wall-and-wire project raises the awful prospect that Jews, instead of forming a civil society among its neighbors, will retrench and recreate on a national scale the ghettos from which their ancestors escaped.

Mr. Levi responded to an earlier letter by Steven Karpas, who wrote about Ariel Sharon's plan for a border wall which would confine Palestinians to "the world's largest open-air prison." But why assume that the Palestinians are the prisoners?

John Hanley Zaugg
San Francisco**German geography lesson**

Thanks for your arts section and Stephanie von Buchau's music reviews. ["Great Scot, it's Nic," June 6]. I appreciate her comments and insight. However, her German name notwithstanding, she needs to get a grip on basic German geography, i.e., regarding the June 6 issue. Goettingen is not now nor was it ever in the East Zone of Germany. It's a lovely university town, not unlike Berkeley, and is located at least 75 miles from the old post-War border which had divided the country, east and west.

Vernon Smith
San Francisco

POLITICS

COPS endorse Simon; Davis: Who cares?

by Wayne Friday

It happens countless times every election cycle. A self-serving group with a respectable sounding name or a political club from either party with a good name but few members and even less influence hassles candidates for statewide or local office for money to get on the group's "endorsed" slate cards. Most of the time it doesn't help the candidate much, other than it looks good to have the name listed as an "endorsed" candidate on the material sent by the political club or law enforcement or environmental group. It's a really easy way for the organization or political club to make a lot of money: simply hit up the candidate for a large "donation" and in return that candidate usually ends up with the "endorsement." The group rakes in an excessive fee, sends out a mailer at a much lower cost, and the rest stays in the bank account of the endorsing group. Virtually all political clubs, including gay and lesbian groups, do it all the time.

So, when the 25-year-old California Organization of Police and Sheriffs, whose membership statewide had dropped to around 5,000, decided prior to the March 5 primary that they would hit up statewide candidates of both the Democratic and Republican parties for their "endorsement," Republican **Bill Simon** quickly forked over \$100,000 to get the endorsement over GOP rival **Richard Riordan**, but when COPS members went to **Gray Davis**, who had no primary opponent, the governor's campaign people didn't see the need, so they passed on the \$100,000 chance to get on the primary slate card.

The result? You guessed it – last week COPS announced it was supporting Republican Simon for governor in the November general election. COPS had endorsed Davis for governor in 1998; in fact, the group has endorsed Davis every time he's run for office since his first bid for the Assembly in 1982. Apparently, COPS officials were so bitter that the governor wouldn't come up with a hundred grand for a totally meaningless primary "endorsement" that they weren't going to let the Democratic incumbent off in November.

It's strictly a slate mailer business and, as I said, many organizations and political clubs engage in the practice to keep their bank accounts healthy. Indeed, COPS reportedly took in nearly \$900,000 in just such endorsement monies during the 2000 campaign and after having sent out the slate mailers with its choice of candidates, ended up with a nifty profit of several hundred thousand dollars.

In addition to raising funds, the executive director of COPS, **Monty Holden**, urged his board to abandon its 1998 endorsement of Davis and endorse Simon this fall, arguing that the political payoff could be great if Simon manages to somehow win the November election. Such a victory could propel COPS into great prominence and even help the dwin-

dling group recruit new members. As the *Sacramento Bee* pointed out last week, the COPS endorsement of Simon over Davis "shows that endorsements are often more about the goals of the backers than the performance of the candidate."

The *Bee* noted that the COPS endorsement announcement carried "not a word about the governor's record on criminal justice issues, or Simon's. This wasn't about policy, it was a business decision."

Meanwhile, the larger, more influential statewide law organizations like the California Correctional Peace Officers Association and the Peace Officers Research Association of California, have announced their endorsement of Davis for re-election and have the membership, money, and clout to more than offset COPS' endorsement of Simon.

Politics and people

President **George W. Bush's** appointment of San Francisco Superior Court Judge **Kevin Ryan** to be the Bay Area's next U.S. attorney was backed enthusiastically by both of the state's Democratic senators, **Dianne Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer**. Ryan will become one of 93 U.S. attorneys throughout the country who must balance the federal government's traditional priorities with the new emphasis on fighting the war on terrorism. Ryan now becomes the most powerful federal law enforcement officer in Northern California.

The *New York Times* recently ran an editorial entitled "Equity for Gay Victims of Sept. 11th." The *Times* urged that it be possible for gay partners of those lost in the attacks to collect awards from the federal fund set up to compensate bereaved families. The *Times*: "The difficulty, of course, is that New York state has no law recognizing same-sex unions or granting committed gay couples a way to register their relationship and obtain essential legal protections. Indeed, thanks to years of blockading by the Republican-led state Senate, New York still lacks a basic law barring discrimination against gay people in housing, employment, and accommodations – a disgrace that Governor **George Pataki** needs to work hard to remedy."

District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** and his deputy, **Jim Hammer**, have every reason in the world to be disappointed and annoyed at Superior Court Judge **James Warren**. As most legal experts seem to agree, the second-degree murder charge against **Marjorie Knoller** in the dog-mauling case was probably overcharged in the first place. "In the eyes of the people, both defendants are guilty of murder [but] in the eyes of the law they are not," Judge Warren said last week as he threw out the murder conviction. The big question is why Warren didn't drop the second-degree murder charge before the Los Angeles trial. Was he hoping that the jury would never come back with a conviction on the murder charge, thereby releasing him of

making the unpopular move of throwing out the charge? Three months ago, Judge Warren was shaking hands with each of the jurors who convicted Knoller; last week he gave their carefully considered verdict the heave-ho. Indeed, the defense moved immediately before the trial to quash the grand jury's second-degree murder indictment, and again to dismiss the same charges at the start of the trial. Both times Judge Warren let the proceedings roll – apparently in anticipation that the jury would never convict. At no time during the trial did the judge indicate any problem with the second-degree murder charge or its subsequent verdict. Now Warren, having finally done the correct thing in tossing out the verdict, has made the entire thing look, as Hammer angrily proclaimed in court last week, like a "travesty."

It seemed nearly every major Democrat in the state was at Moose's in North Beach last Sunday to help Senator **Dianne Feinstein** celebrate her 69th birthday; even **Mike Menesini**, the mayor of Martinez, and a candidate in November for Contra Costa County district attorney, was working the room, picking up endorsements.

From the gospel according to Lou: "If [gay Catholics] recognize they are sinners, they should seek help," said the Reverend **Lou Sheldon** of the Traditional Values Coalition, a lobbying group representing 43,000 churches from a variety of Christian denominations. "I don't want to hurt homosexuals, but I don't want them to mess up the [Catholic] church." Then there's **Jerry Falwell**, who still thinks that gays and abortionists are to blame for the September 11 terrorist attacks; and these jerks call themselves Christians?

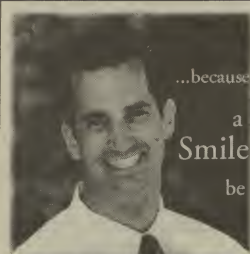
A sure sign that Senator **John Kerry** (D-Massachusetts) is planning a run for the White House in 2004 – the senator recently very quietly used campaign cash to get the Web domain name www.kerry2004.com. Kerry aides however, insisted that the name purchase and another such as kerry2008.com are not really a sign he's running, but just in case he decides to run.

Also in Massachusetts, **Robert Reich**, a Democratic candidate for governor, last week announced he fully supports the right of gay people to marry. The unexpected announcement by Reich, a former U.S. labor secretary in the Clinton administration, sets him apart from his major Democratic opponents as well as **Mitt Romney**, the GOP nominee. The four other Democratic candidates for governor support Vermont-style civil unions, which provide most of the legal benefits of marriage but are not recognized by other states.

An LGBT political action committee in Sacramento held a fundraiser last week for soon-to-be Assemblymembers **Mark Leno** and **John Laird** and the crowd of more than 100 raised money for lobbying causes; someone bid (and paid) \$1,000 each to have dinner with the two (no cheap date, these two).

Enjoy Pride week and the Sunday parade, everyone. ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.



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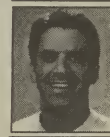
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A TG Pride pop quiz

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

I've always wanted to be able to write a Pride column – but now that I have the opportunity, I find myself with nothing to say. Actually, it isn't that I don't have anything to say, it's that there is so little fresh ground to cover, even when speaking of transgendered issues.

So I've opted spring a pop quiz on you. It's time to take out your No. 2 pencil and a fresh piece of paper. Never fear, though: there is no time limit, and the results will not end up on your permanent record. On top of that, there are only 10 questions. Some of them are remarkably easy, while others are strictly "geek level." Let's begin.

1. What television drama was the first to tackle transsexuality? Bonus points: who played the transsexual in this landmark episode?

2. Who was America's first well-known transsexual?

3. Which two transpeople are widely credited for their involvement in the Stonewall riot? Bonus points: what was the name of their trans rights organization, founded shortly after Stonewall?

4. What city had the first known transgender-specific social services organization in the United States?

5. Who was the first transsexual to climb Mount Everest?

6. What was the first television show to have a transsexual character as part of the regular cast?

7. What years were the first modern genital reassignment surgeries performed? Bonus points: what were the names of the patients?

8. Which American location was the first to have an anti-discrimination law that included transgendered people?

9. Sandy Stone's transgender manifesto, *The Empire Strikes Back*, is a response to what anti-transsexual book?

10. Which well-known Lou Reed song is a biographical tale about transgendered and other people from the backroom of a New York City nightclub? Bonus points: what was the name of the nightclub?

Okay, pencils down. Do you feel like you had a good grasp on the questions? Let's find out.

1. The first television drama to portray a transsexual character was the groundbreaking drama *Medical Center*. In a two-part episode from 1975 titled "The Fourth Sex," actor Robert Reed checked in for "a very Brady surgical procedure."

2. While there were many who came before her, none made quite



the splash that Christine Jorgensen did when she returned from Denmark in the early 1950s. Headlines like "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty" pushed reports on hydrogen bomb tests off the front pages, and she remained in the public eye until her death in 1989. Adding to her popularity, her book, *The Christine Jorgensen Story*, was a best-seller that was adapted to the big screen.

3. Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson have been largely credited for their involvement in Stonewall and early rights

struggles. Shortly after the Stonewall rebellion, the two of them formed the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries, or STAR, to continue to press for rights. Johnson died in 1992 in a suspicious death, and Rivera passed away earlier this year, shortly after reviving the STAR organization, and just before helping to secure the rights of transgendered people in the city of New York.

4. San Francisco, of course. The National Transsexual Counseling Unit was funded by the Erickson Educational Foundation, and existed in the early 1970s. The organization folded shortly after a San Francisco Police officer planted narcotics and busted the two transsexuals who worked in the NTCU office.

5. While Jorgensen was facing flashbulbs in America, travel writer Jan Morris – before her own transition – climbed Mount Everest as part of her job with the *London Times*. She still writes on travel to this day, bringing far-flung places to life with her flowery prose.

6. A trick question! No, *The Education of Max Bickford* was not the first: for that, you need to go back to two shows that premiered in 1977. *Soap* included the character of Jodie Dallas, played by Billy Crystal, who dabbled in transsexuality. Meanwhile *All That Glitters* featured Dallas star Linda Gray as

transsexual model Linda Murkland. *All That Glitters* may have lasted as long as *Bickford*.

7. The first male-to-female genital reassignment was done in 1931, presumably for Danish painter Lili Elbe. It wasn't until 1948 that the first female-to-male surgery took place, for Michael Dillon.

8. Minnesota, of all places, was first to pass an anti-discrimination law including the transgendered. There are now over 40 locations with such laws on the books, and many still point to the language set down in the Minnesota statute.

9. *The Empire Strikes Back* by Sandy Stone was a reaction to the 1979 inflammatory text by Janice Raymond titled *The Transsexual Empire*. While not the only response to Raymond's book, Stone's work remains one of the best, and set the stage for the likes of transgender activists Leslie Feinberg, Kate Bornstein, Riki Wilchins – and me.

10. I gave you an easy one to go out on. Lou Reed's "A Walk on the Wild Side" tells the stories of many of the locals present in the backroom at Max's Kansas City, located in New York City in the early 1970s. Among those mentioned in the song are Candy Darling, Holly Woodlawn, and Jackie Curtis, who were part of Andy Warhol's Superstars. Of the three, only Woodlawn is around today.

I must reveal my other agenda: Many people are listed above, from Michael Dillon to Candy Darling. These people are the history and legacy of the transgendered community. We've been in songs, on television, and in movies.

Maybe that's what I have to say this Pride after all. These people took pride in themselves, and they made a difference, no matter how small.

If they could, then you can too. ▼

Gwen Smith is – quite obviously – a trivia nut. She can be found on the Web in *Gay.com's* "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

Mychal Judge

◀ page 1

Jerrold Nadler (D-New York) cosponsored the measure. He represents lower Manhattan in Congress.

The bill had breezed through the Senate on May 6 with strong support from police and firefighting organizations. It hit a roadblock in the House on May 22 when House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) pulled it from the calendar, ostensibly to study it in light of fears by the De-

partment of Justice that it would cost too much.

However, social conservative allies of Armey have long muttered that such legislation legitimizes same-sex relationships and "threatens" marriage.

After the Memorial Day recess, Armey allowed the bill to move forward and it passed on a voice vote on June 11. "This bill is a simple matter of fairness," said Nadler. "Not having a surviving spouse or child is not a crime. In fact, in the case of Father Judge, it was a higher calling."

Elizabeth Birch showered praise on all those involved with the legislation. The executive director of the Human Rights Campaign said, "In a time of national crisis we watched these courageous individuals [public safety officers] rise to the occasion, and it is only fitting that Congress and the president rose to the occasion to treat their families with the sensitivity and respect they deserve."

This is believed to be the first time that a federal benefit would become available to a survivor of a gay partnership. ▼

COMMENTARY

What unites us?

by Dale Carpenter

The annual gay Pride celebrations prompt some reflection on the state of the movement and the community of interests it represents. It's fair to ask, for example, do we really have a "community of interests" that a civil rights movement could be said to represent? Or do gays comprise so many constituencies with such divergent (and even conflicting) interests that labeling us a community is more aspiration than description?

The truth is somewhere between the two, but closer to the latter. This fact concerns a lot of gay activists, who plead for "unity," but they shouldn't.

It's trite to say we're everywhere, but in this case trite is right. We come from North, South, East, and West. Gay people are born into rich families and poor families, understanding families and bigoted families. We worship God in every religious tradition; some of us do not worship Him at all. Gays come in all ages, shapes, sizes, and colors. We like every kind of food, music, and dress. We're in every occupation, from highway construction worker to CEO.

We are Republicans, Democrats, Greens, Libertarians, Independents, and none of the aforementioned. We're liberal, conservative, radical, reactionary, and uninterested. We voted for Bush, Gore, Nader, and Daffy Duck.

With all this diversity, it would be very surprising to find that we could reach a consensus on almost anything. We can't even settle on what to call this purported community. Gay? Gay and lesbian? GLBT? Queer?

So what does a 50-year-old, conservative, religious, closeted white gay man from the rural South who works in a factory have in common with a 20-year-old, radical, atheist, out-and-proud self-identified "queer" Latina from New York City who attends an elite university? Can these people really be part of the same community?

What, for that matter, do I have in common with Barney Frank?

Gay people have two things, and only two things, in common. The first is sexual attraction to members of one's own sex. By itself, that is hardly anything over

which to form a community. Straight people, after all, share with each other an attraction to members of the opposite sex. But it would be bizarre to speak of a single "straight community." No, we'd say, heterosexuals' interests and perspectives are too divergent to merit the moniker. Gays are fewer in number than straights but no less diverse, so the mere fact that gays share a sexual orientation is insufficient.

If there is any basis to recognize some kind of community it must come from the second thing that all gay people have in common: an experience of stigma and discrimination that arises from society's reaction to the sexual orientation we share.

Some such experience is an inescapable fact of life in modern America. No matter how cocooned you are in a tolerant atmosphere,

roughly the same, can be radically different.

Person A is attacked on the streets by some ruffians yelling anti-gay slurs and concludes she should start a Pink Pistols brigade to encourage gay people to arm themselves against such aggression. Person B suffers the same attack and thinks the best response is to lobby for a hate crimes law.

Person A is rejected by her family when they learn she's gay and opts to win them over by emphasizing how fundamentally similar to them she is. Person B suffers the same rejection and opts to emphasize how really different his homosexuality makes him.

When it comes to public policy, our common experience of discrimination gives us almost no common ground. For example, the gay left seems most concerned to get the government *into* our lives in order to protect us; the gay right is most concerned to get the government *out* of our lives in



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If you hide in the closet in order to avoid hazards, you face a different set of problems. Feeling the need to hide is itself discrimination and stigma affecting your life.

you will experience some of this simply because you're gay. It could be a funny look from someone on the street, or an epithet shouted from a passing car, or a job lost, or a family member who no longer wants you around her kids.

If you hide in the closet in order to avoid these hazards, you face a different set of problems. Feeling the need to hide is itself discrimination and stigma affecting your life.

But is this experience enough to say we have anything significant in common? The intensity and duration of these experiences vary wildly from person to person, depending on many factors, including just dumb luck. Chances are, our 20-year-old university student will have a very different experience of stigma than our 50-year-old rural Southerner.

More importantly, our "common" experience can be as disuniting as it is uniting. The lessons we draw from our life experiences, even when those experiences are

order to free us.

There ought to be, and there is, a strong consensus that outright state-sponsored anti-gay discrimination (marriage, the military, sodomy laws) should be eliminated. We all agree that such legally enforced inequality should go.

Even with this agreement, however, there are differences over how much priority to give the protection-enhancing measures versus the equality-enhancing measures.

So there's not much unity in this community, and there will be even less as social stigma and legal discrimination fade. Our success in the cultural and political battles erodes the basis for the very community that organized to fight those battles. We ought to see our fragmentation as a marker of progress, not as a reason for despair. It's a sign we're winning. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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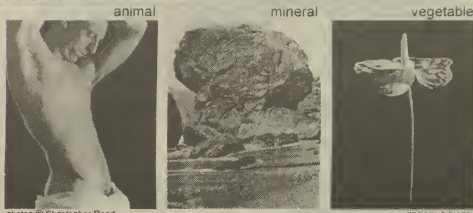
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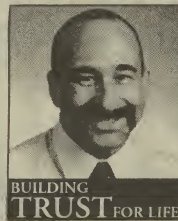


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Judge issues medical marijuana injunction

by Liz Highleyman

As expected, federal district Judge Charles Breyer has issued a permanent injunction prohibiting three Northern California medical marijuana clubs from dispensing cannabis to patients.

Breyer's ruling was announced Thursday, June 13. Previously, on May 3, Breyer denied a request to lift a 1998 temporary injunction against the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Club, the Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana, and the Ukiah Cannabis Buyers Club. Other medical marijuana dispensaries named in the original lawsuit have since ceased operations.

Breyer's latest decision follows in the wake of a May 2001 U.S. Supreme Court decision that held that marijuana has no accepted medical use, that a "medical neces-

sity" defense cannot be used by cannabis providers, and that California's medical marijuana statute is subordinate to federal law.

In January, the OCBC asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to look at other constitutional issues in the case, including the argument that states have a right to set their own health policies and that patients have a due process right to use a substance that relieves pain and suffering.

OCBC attorney Robert Raich said Breyer's latest ruling allows the clubs to appeal to the Ninth Circuit, which in the past has handed down decisions favorable to the clubs.

Raich said the permanent injunction against the clubs would force patients onto the streets to obtain marijuana, where they will be "exposed to the criminal element, as well as the danger of getting medicine of questionable

quality."

Medical cannabis advocates predict that last week's ruling will give the federal Drug Enforcement Administration a green light to step up activities against other local medical marijuana dispensaries.

Already this year the 6th Street Harm Reduction Center in San Francisco was closed down by the DEA in February, the Aiko Compassion Center in Santa Rosa was raided on May 29, and San Francisco's CHAMP closed voluntarily in May due to the threat of federal action.

Americans for Safe Access, the coalition that spearheaded a national day of action against the DEA on June 6, has implemented a rapid alert network and vows to turn out en masse to protest future medical cannabis club raids. For more information, visit www.safeaccessnow.org. ▼

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We are family

by Jane Warner

1 5th Street and Sharon, June 23, 10:26 p.m.: While exiting his house on Sharon Street, a man saw two women crouched down on the sidewalk. The man could hear the sounds of a spray paint can and could smell the distinct odor of paint. When the two women got up, the man saw that they had painted the words "Dyke Town" in gold in the middle of the sidewalk. The man told the women to clean up the graffiti, but the women ignored him and quickly walked away. Following the pair, the man called 911 on his cell phone. As they reached 16th and Dolores, one of the women tossed a spray paint can into a trash receptacle, then turned to the man asking, "Don't you have something better to do?" The man continued to give the police dispatcher directions to the women's location and soon officers arrived and took the two women into custody without incident. The urban artists, ages 30 and 33, were taken to Mission Station and booked for felony vandalism. One of the women was also charged with de-

laying an investigation after giving an officer a false name.

Petal pusher

17th and Dolores, June 20, 6 p.m.: A resident walking near the makeshift memorial for fallen Officer Jon Cook saw another man standing nearby acting suspicious. The resident stopped to observe and was flabbergasted when he saw the man bend down and take a bouquet of flowers. The thief quickly walked across Dolores Street, flowers in hand. Angry, the resident chased after the suspect and warned that he was calling 911. The suspect, described as a white male in his 30s, about 5 feet 8 inches tall, dropped the flowers and quickly ran away. The resident returned the flowers to the memorial site.

Exit only

Castro Country Club, 4058 18th Street, June 15, 9:50 p.m.: A man and his friend staggered up the stairs of the country club and at-

tempted to gain entry. Because of their obvious intoxicated state, the manager politely refused service because the club is a clean and sober place of business. The men turned to leave and walked a few steps down the stairs when suddenly one of them fell over the railing head first. A witness told responding paramedics that he saw the man land on the left side of his head with his body twisting in a different direction. Taken to the hospital via ambulance, the man refused to speak to officers who came to take a report. Medics reported that the man did not appear to be seriously injured, as he was moving quite a bit and pulled the IV out of his arm twice. The 38-year-old man was kept overnight for observation. ▼



The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

Dept. of Corrections settles hep C lawsuit

by Zak Szymanski

A landmark wrongful death lawsuit against the California Department of Corrections on behalf of a woman with

hepatitis C and HIV reached a \$250,000 settlement on Friday, June 14. The lawsuit was one of the first cases nationally to challenge the standard of healthcare for prisoners with hepatitis C, according to Cynthia Chandler of Justice Network on Women, and it also set a precedent in taking on the common practice of gross deception when communicating with prisoners' families.

Rosemary Willeby was serving a three-year sentence at Central California Women's Facility on a drug possession charge when she was swept up in a tuberculosis protocol and given an aggressive course of liver-toxic anti-TB medications despite having active liver disease and no symptoms of TB. Her stomach swelled to the point that friends would jokingly refer to "Rosemary's baby," but prison doctors refused to acknowledge her liver failure. As her health declined, prison officials continually deceived her family, said Chandler, at one point informing them that she had died when she hadn't, and at another point informing them she was stable when she was fighting for her life. While she was on her deathbed, Chandler's Justice NOW organization advocated for her compassionate release and for her family's right to schedule a visit.

The last piece of correspondence Chandler received on the matter was postmarked the day after Willeby died stating that she was "continuing to receive the best standard of care" and her health was "under control." Willeby died alone in October 1999 without ever seeing her family again.

"The abuse of prisoners' fami-

lies is an enormously pervasive issue, especially as increasingly repressive prison regulations around visiting make it harder for families to have contact with loved ones in prison," said Chandler. "We thought this was a good time to challenge some of that, so the lawsuit was also for the intentional negligent emotional distress on her family not just wrongful death."

Chandler's Justice NOW organization had to step in and pay for an autopsy because of an agreement between the prison and a nearby hospital that all HIV-positive women would be assumed to have died of AIDS. Willeby's HIV was not a factor in her death.

The California Department of Corrections estimates that 40 percent of its prisoners have hepatitis C, yet there is very little in place to deal with the epidemic, said Chandler. Willeby was one of five prisoners who died at CCWF during a two-month period; three of those deaths were due to hepatitis-related liver failure.

"The same factors that make someone vulnerable to imprisonment and policing — poverty, lack of resources, and being of color — are the same factors that are increasingly being linked to one's vulnerability to life-threatening disease. This settlement is essentially an admission of the Department of Corrections' inability to address this epidemic," said Chandler. "More broadly, this case speaks to prisons' inability to respond to medical crises and the human cost of mass imprisonment."

The settlement money will be divided among Willeby's mother, son, and grandchildren. ▼

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Dog-maul jurors may protest judge's decision

by Ed Walsh

A group of the jurors who convicted Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller in connection with the dog-mauling death of Diane Whipple may show up at Knoller's sentencing hearing July 15 in a defiant protest against the judge who threw out Knoller's second-degree murder conviction, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

Juror Vanessa Caroline told the B.A.R. that she has been contacted by another juror who is organizing a group to come up to San Francisco as a show of solidarity against San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren's decision that partially nullified their verdict. The lead prosecutor on the case, Jim Hammer, said that although he's aware that a group of jurors may show up at the hearing, he didn't know how many of the original panel of jurors were committed to making the trek from Los Angeles to San Francisco. The case was moved to L.A. because of the extensive publicity in the Bay Area.

On June 17, Warren let stand the couple's convictions of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being, but he granted a defense request for a new trial on Knoller's second-degree murder conviction. Many legal experts and the prosecution itself have questioned whether Knoller can

be tried again for second-degree murder or whether that would constitute double jeopardy.

Evan Lee, a professor at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, told the B.A.R. that the double jeopardy question as it relates to Warren's decision is something that's being hotly debated among legal scholars at his school. Lee said that the issue gets confusing because of state and federal statutes that speak separately to the double jeopardy issue.

"Double jeopardy gets more complex every day," said Lee.

University of San Francisco Law School Professor Robert Talbot told the B.A.R. that he's convinced that another trial for Knoller would constitute double jeopardy. He said it may have been an indirect way for Warren to acquit Knoller of second-degree murder.

"When [Warren] said 'new trial' it may have been because he didn't want to take a lot of heat and make it look like there was something open. That's what I thought," Talbot said.

Talbot also noted that prosecutors might be reluctant to put their witnesses, including Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, through the ordeal of another trial.

At next month's hearing, prosecutors said they will argue a motion to formally ask Warren to reverse his decision that negated the second-degree murder conviction. Warren is expected to turn down

that request and sentence Knoller. She is expected to get the same sentence as her husband, four years in state prison. With credit for time served and good behavior, both likely will be released on parole in a little over a year.

Prosecutors are expected to appeal Warren's decision to the Court of Appeal. Warren could decide to delay sentencing Knoller until the prosecution has exhausted its appeals.

Prosecutors said they are also considering filing perjury charges against Noel and Knoller for allegedly lying to the grand jury that indicted them.

Talbot said perjury cases are difficult to prosecute because it has to be proved that the defendant knowingly made statements he or she knew to be false. But Talbot said the Noel-Knoller case presents prosecutors with strong evidence of perjury.

In their grand jury testimony, both Noel and Knoller denied that their dogs lunged at or threatened anyone. Prosecutors say that more than 30 people came forward to say that the dogs threatened them. Most of those people testified during the trial.

Lee agreed that there is a "pretty strong case" for perjury and he pointed out that Warren accused Noel of perjury when he gave him the maximum sentence of four years.

The prescribed sentence for perjury is two, three, or four years in prison. ▼

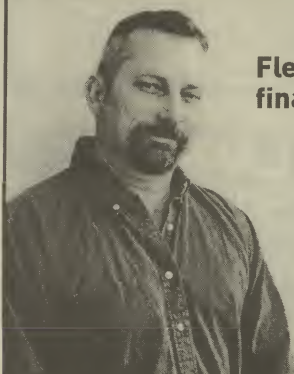


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Fate of gay prisoners likely to be decided this fall

by Ed Walsh

It may be a long summer for the two gay prisoners who are at the center of California's parole debate.

The California Supreme Court has agreed to an expedited review of the cases of Robert Rosenkrantz and Mark Smith but that will likely mean the high court won't hear the cases until after Labor Day.

"Expedited is anything the Supreme Court says it is," said Don Specter of the Prison Law Office, an inmate advocacy organization that is working on the cases. "It could be September, October, or November. We just don't

know."

Lower court judges have ruled that Governor Gray Davis illegally blocked parole for Rosenkrantz and Smith. Davis fought the judges' orders to free the men and the California Supreme Court eventually decided to decide the cases.

Rosenkrantz and Smith were convicted of second-degree murder for unrelated killings in 1985 in Los Angeles County.

Smith, 46, suffers from AIDS, dementia, cancer, heart disease, and Parkinson's disease. Although the Board of Prison Terms, which has only approved parole for about 1 percent of eligible inmates, ordered Smith paroled, Davis blocked his release. In a

stinging rebuke of the governor, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge ruled that Davis's virtual blanket policy against parole is illegal. The judge ordered Smith's immediate release but the state appealed and the California Supreme Court decided to hear his case.

Smith was convicted of second-degree murder in connection with the shooting and drowning of a man in a dispute over cocaine. Smith's trial court judge has strongly endorsed his parole. The judge who ordered his parole was sharply critical of Davis for suggesting that Smith was the triggerman, rather than an accomplice.

Seventeen years ago,
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GLBT runaways at risk, study finds

by Bob Roehr

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender runaways are at significantly greater risk for negative outcomes than are their heterosexual counterparts, according to a study published in the May issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Among the grim statistics: sexual minority runaways had twice as many lifetime sexual partners (24) as their heterosexual peers; they were twice as likely to report not using protection "all of the time" during sex; they were more likely to have used illegal drugs and more types of those drugs; and they were more likely to have been the victim of physical abuse, both before they left home and as runaways.

Bryan H. Cochran, a graduate student at the University of Washington, analyzed a survey of 375 adolescents aged 13 to 21 conducted in Seattle between 1995 and 1998. The information was gathered during interviews that could last up to two hours.

The overwhelming majority of the sexual minority youth, 71 of 84, identified as bisexual rather than any of the other categories. "Sexual orientation is a dynamic variable that can change over time, particularly with youth who are in the process of establishing their sense of self," said Cochran.

He pointed to other recently published work demonstrating that "adolescents who identified as bisexual are at a particular risk even above those who identified as gay or lesbian." That could be because in many places gay and lesbian youth have community support and resources to draw upon, while "you really don't have a bisexual community, per say."

The "double stigma," the combination of being homeless and also being GLBT, "is what leads adolescents to have these difficulties," said Cochran.

Increased societal awareness of homosexuality can be a double-edged sword. It can lead to kids "coming out" at an earlier age, when they are more dependent on their families. It also can result in parents being more aware and pressing questions that in an earlier time they might have overlooked. This has the potential for creating both affirming and destructive family dynamics.

Cochran believes the first step to improving the situation is to try and reduce the overall incidence of runaways. That means in-

creased services for families in turmoil and for questioning youth. He suggested programs that teach youth how to come out to their parents and deal with those issues, "so that they are not running away out of fear of how their family might react."

Once a youth does run away, "street outreach workers need to recognize that sexual orientation is an important factor in determining the experience that these kids will have on the streets. It's not enough to say, this is a homeless adolescent."

As kids go in and out of the system, Cochran believes "they are encountering homophobia at many different levels. They may be encountering it with the social service system, maybe in foster home placements, maybe with their family of origin. So it really is a matter of no place to go."

Cochran said that he recently received his first "wacko" homophobic letter in response to the article.

"Seeing things like this makes me realize that there is still work to be done," he said. ▼

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Orbitz targets gay travelers with online venture

by Matthew S. Bajko

While several gay travel companies have been advertising online to the LGBT community for years, the first mainstream company has now launched an effort to tap into the \$1.2 billion gay and lesbian travel market.

Orbitz, an online travel company, announced this month it had teamed with PlanetOut Partners' Gay.com Web site in order to offer permanent gay and lesbian-specific travel information and deals to popular travel destinations.

"Everyone knows the gay traveler is one of the best customers a travel agent or airline can have," said Jeff Marsh, Orbitz's director of marketing. "We also had momentum within our organization. We are an extremely gay-friendly company. It's really at every rank within the organization. From the vice president level down to entry level position, there are openly gay employees."

Orbitz offers travelers access to 455 airlines and nearly 2 billion flights through its Web site, as well as deals on lodging, car rentals, cruises, vacation packages and other travel. The company was founded by five airlines - American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, and United. As it celebrates its one-year anniversary this month, Marsh said the company wanted to launch its first effort at targeting a specific consumer with the gay market to coincide with Pride month.

"At this point we are just getting into target marketing and the first one is gay and lesbian," said Marsh, who noted the company

offers domestic partner benefits and has a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation. "We didn't just throw this out there. We did research and talked to gays and lesbians of all ages. The feedback we received was they were looking for a one-stop shopping place for travel and hadn't found it online."

According to Forrester Research, in 2001, gay and lesbian travelers were responsible for 7 percent of total online leisure travel spending. Gay and lesbian travelers are seven times more likely than the average consumer to take six or more flights in one year and are twice as likely to spend more than \$5,000 on one trip.

"The gay community looks to the Internet when making travel plans - 41 percent of gays and lesbians have booked travel online compared to 28 percent of other travelers," said Orbitz chief marketing officer Mike Sands.

The new micro-site features information about gay destination cities and events on six continents, specially tailored travel deals and tips, and advice for gay and lesbian parents traveling with their families. The site is accessible through the Deals tab on the Orbitz homepage and on the Gay.com and OutandAbout.com Web sites.

"Orbitz is really taking this seriously and even presenting gay and lesbian content from OutandAbout," said Mark Elderkin, PlanetOut Partners' executive vice president and chief operating officer. "We tend to partner with companies that want to reach the gay and lesbian market for the right reasons and offer high quality service."

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New York's Stonewall District threatened

by Bob Roehr

Christopher Street is more than a mile from the site of the former World Trade Center, but fallout from the September 11 terrorist attack is threatening the historic scene of the Stonewall riots where the modern gay movement started. The threat this time doesn't come from outside but rather from a government agency.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey runs the PATH commuter trains from Manhattan under the Hudson River to New Jersey. The WTC station was its busiest but that was destroyed when the towers collapsed, and traffic has greatly increased at two PATH subway stops on Christopher Street. The Port Authority wants to build two additional exists to those stations and use disaster relief money to do so.

The plan is to expand the sidewalks near the exits and narrow the already narrow Christopher Street at those points. Preservationists worry that it will destroy the character of the street, whose narrow and convoluted pattern, plus the openness of Christopher Park, all contributed to making the Stonewall riots possible.

The surrounding few blocks were added to the National Register of Historic Places in June 1999 in recognition of the importance of those riots. It was the first time that a gay site was added to that register.

PATH surveyors hit the streets last October. Greenwich Village community activist Ben Green said they revived an old plan, they just "took it off the shelf and blew the dust off." But PATH officials kept telling the community that there were no definitive plans,



The 2001 Pride Parade on Christopher Street in front of the existing PATH station in New York City.

until they dropped the bombshell at a March 19 meeting, and said they were going to start construction in June.

When state Assemblywoman Deborah Glick reminded them that the gay Pride Parade was scheduled to march down those blocks on June 30, PATH shifted the start date to July 1. All of this is possible because the state has given PATH blanket exemption from observing historic and environmental reviews.

Playwright Edward Albee heads a list of gay and lesbian literati that have written an open letter to Governor George Pataki, urging him to use his influence on the PATH board of directors to rein in their plans. They are urging others to do likewise.

About 300 members of the community and local political officials rallied in the rain on June 14 to protest the plans. The newly formed Christopher Street Pres-

ervation Alliance argues that additional exists should be built on broader avenues, not the narrow cross street.

Green has threatened to sue PATH for violating historic preservation laws. The fact that he has sued them twice in the past has at least gotten their attention. He said that the threat probably will buy them at least a few months time as PATH conducts an engineering survey to ascertain the vulnerability of the buildings to construction tunneling. Many of the structures were built before the Civil War.

In recent years New York's gay Pride Parade has begun at Central Park and ended marching through the narrow Christopher Street. It's been a tight fit. Some worry that PATH's construction plans will narrow the street so much that June 30 will be the last time the parade passes them by on Christopher Street. ▼

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CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY...

Orbitz

◀ previous page

The news of Orbitz entering the gay travel market did spark concern at the recent International Gay and Lesbian Travel Agents Association Convention, said Thomas Roth, president of San Francisco-based Community Marketing, which hosts gay travel expos around the country. He said some agents feel threatened that their local, personal service will be further undercut by large corporations going after the gay market.

"Our recent research shows that gays and lesbians use the Internet for travel research and bookings far more than the main-

stream does. But the marketing muscle of Orbitz further blows away the ability for local gay agents to compete," said Roth. "Savvy travel agents are a valuable resource of travel destination information and experience for gay and lesbian travelers. They also are a big part of our community economy. These agencies employ our friends, and if they lose the business, they are likely to have to shut their doors. No Web site can replace that resource."

"That said, agents certainly need to wake up and smell the Internet, as it is growing fast, and increasingly favored for travel by our community. But many agents are on the ball. Most gay and gay-friendly agencies now have Web

sites, and most of those allow for both online booking as well as research and phone-call booking. Proactive agents are focusing on offering cruises and packages, which are more complicated and difficult to handle on a Web site."

As Orbitz evaluates the success of the new gay-oriented travel site, the company is already examining partnerships with gay travel companies, Marsh said.

"We understand there may be some conflicts in some areas," he said. "We are looking to do partnerships with gay-specific travel providers like Olivia and Atlantis and RSVP. We are headed in that direction, but it takes time."

To access the new site, visit www.orbitz.com/gaytravel. ▼

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Most Holy Redeemer's pastor moves on



Father Zachary Shore at Most Holy Redeemer Church.

by Joe Dignan

They are not alone. They're mainly gay. They're Catholic. And they pack the pews of Most Holy Redeemer Church every Sunday. They have a shared faith. And they have each other.

On Saturday night, June 22, the weekend before Pride, they got together at a dinner-dance to say goodbye to the priest who has led Most Holy Redeemer for the past 12 and a half years, Father Zachary Shore. Shore will move on to become pastor of the Church of the Visitación in San Francisco.

"It's so appropriate. A dinner-dance is such a typical Father Shore event," said Michael Vargas, an administrator at the church, as the lights went down, candles flickered on the tables, and a Madonna song from the new sound system filled the parish hall.

"Do you know what you're getting into?" Shore remembered one of the parishioners asking when he first suggested the dances.

"They have dinner-dances. We have dinner-dances," Shore recalled he said as the first couple, two guys, both in jeans and button down shirts, ventured out onto the dance floor and executed a disco turn or two.

"We could dance with anyone that we wanted," said Roz Gallo, a chair of the pastoral committee. "We have two or three a year now."

Most Holy Redeemer, on Diamond Street in the Castro, calls itself "an inclusive Catholic community." By that the parishioners mean that they invite gays and lesbians into the parish, which is part of a church whose doctrine says that their sex lives are a sin.

"We're a magnet parish for the gay and lesbian community. People come here from all over," said Vargas.

Ask the parishioners about the most important things Shore has done in his 12 years and most talk first about the \$4 million-plus reconstruction of the building prompted by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

"It's as earthquake-proof as any 100-year old building," Shore said, gesturing around the room to the fancy new light fixtures and plush velvet drapes on the stage, and then quietly mentioning the \$2 million the parish still owes for the three-year construction project that was finally completed in November 1998.

Most Catholic Churches in San Francisco are big drafty places, built in the heyday of the religion here. Now, scattered faithful sit separated by wide empty expanses of oak pews.

But at Most Holy Redeemer, the church is full.

Ask the parishioners what's so special about Most Holy Redeemer and the answer goes universally along the lines of "people just feel good," as Vargas said. "Everybody knows your name. This is a safe place to come and pray."

They also work to make the church good for the neighborhood.

In 1985, when the church was floundering and thousands around it were dying of AIDS, Shore's predecessor, Father An-

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KALETRA™ (lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules (lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA™ (kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your

local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Hismanal® (astemizole)
 - Orap® (pimozide)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride)
 - Rythmol® (propafenone)
 - Seldane® (terfenadine)
 - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
 - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:
 - Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
 These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Other Special Considerations:
 - KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:
 - Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new

or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pride hits SF!

◀ page 1

wonderful mixture of diverse cultures, politics, glamour, and community, which is exactly how it should be."

Local parade grand marshals are artists and activists Christopher Lee and Shawna Virago; city Treasurer Susan Leal; and human rights advocate Hoover Lee. The organization grand marshal is the new LGBT Community Center. And celebrity grand marshals include actor Sir Ian McKellen, actress Sharon Gless, and the recent addition of singer Nancy Sinatra.

Floats and marchers to watch for include the Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammi, Supervisor and Assembly candidate Mark Leno, and many others. The Women's Motorcycle Contingent will lead the parade.

Also expected to be marching are the SF Fog Rugby Club, joined by over 200 gay rugby players from around the world who are in San Francisco to compete in the Mark Bingham memorial rugby tournament; Showtime's *Queer as Folk* float; and a "Friends of Britney" contingent, which promises to be as outrageous as it sounds.

Saturday events

The San Francisco Pride Festival begins the day before the parade, on Saturday, June 29, in Civic Center Plaza. The main stage, located in front of City Hall on Polk Street, will provide a variety of entertainment and speakers.

At noon, the annual "Stand Against Hate" rally, sponsored by Community United Against Violence, features speakers and performers dedicated to combating all hate crimes and discrimination.

At 1 p.m. Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) will host a domestic partnership ceremony for committed couples; those interested in tying the knot should call (415) 557-3000. Free notaries public will be on hand to register



Parade watchers at Lotta's Fountain on Market Street last year.

couples through the state registry; arrive at noon and bring the \$10 fee and identification. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will perform a blessing, and a champagne reception follows the ceremony.

Afterwards, Saturday's main stage will host a jazz and blues themed afternoon, featuring Gwen Avery at 1:55 p.m., followed by Julia Fordham, Faye Carol, Sean Wiggins, Black Angel, and In Disguise.

Also on Saturday will be the opening of the Radical Faerie Freedom Village at United Nations Plaza. The village will offer, on both Saturday and Sunday, a place to hang out and enjoy DJs, yoga, and art exhibits. And the "Fag Fridays" stage also operates on both Saturday and Sunday, featuring the area's best DJs, including representatives from the Stud, The Cafe, and Universe.

The big day

The parade starts at Market and Beale on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

as proceeds to Market and Eighth streets.

The fun doesn't stop after the parade, as all 10 stages – not to mention several city blocks of food and merchandise vendors – will be operating on Sunday, June 30.

The country-western stage, located at Larkin and Market, will present queer 'country' dancing with music provided by Sundance Saloon. Open couples' and line dancing with impromptu lessons will take place all day, and a special dance will take place at 6 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza, 1231 Market Street. Visit www.sundancesaloon.org for more information.

The SwingOUT! stage, located at the Federal Building at the corner of Larkin and Turk, will be playing music from the 1930s and 1940s, and teaching beginning dance lessons throughout the day. Find out more at www.queer-swing.com.

The Tantra Trance stage, located at page 27 ▶

Gay prisoners

◀ page 13

Rosenkrantz shot and killed a former schoolmate who physically attacked him and later outed him to his father. Two Los Angeles County Superior Court judges and two Court of Appeal panels have ruled that Rosenkrantz should be released but Davis has fought the courts at every turn.

Davis once vowed to stop the parole of all convicted killers. Since taking office he's only approved the paroles of two women who were convicted of killing

their abusive partners.

Smith's mother, Dolores Padilla, released a statement recently blasting Davis.

"Governor Davis won't allow my son's release because he doesn't have the courage to do the right thing," she wrote. "This has nothing to do with protecting society. He knows Mark is not a threat to anyone."

Victims' rights groups have been critical of the courts' involvement in the parole process and fear that rulings on the Rosenkrantz and Smith cases could open the floodgates for other prisoners.

It's unknown whether the justices will hear the Smith and Rosenkrantz cases together or individually but Supreme Court spokeswoman Lynn Holton told the *Bay Area Reporter* that it's likely the high court would combine the cases.

Both men are serving time in separate sections of the California Men's Colony prison in San Luis Obispo, about halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Rosenkrantz works full-time developing computer software for the Department of Corrections. Smith no longer works because of his illnesses. ▼

Holy Redeemer

◀ page 16

thony McGuire, and Sister Clea Herold started Most Holy Redeemer's AIDS support group.

Bob Pementelli, who was tending bar at the party, is director of the group that now has 2,600 clients and 1,600 volunteers. The volunteers do grocery shopping, cooking, laundry, and sometimes just hang out with clients.

Pouring a glass of wine he said, "Volunteers get to see people at least four hours a day, once a week. We serve anybody who comes to our door, regardless of religious belief."

They also feed the homeless. Patrick Mulcahey helps run the parish's Wednesday supper program. "We started it last year," he said. "It was soup and bread for

lent, but now we have a three-course meal. At the first Wednesday supper, in May 2001, we had about seven people. This week we had 106."

Most weeks the program has a volunteer nurse there. They show movies and have dances. About 30 volunteers from the parish, Mulcahey said, plus another 10 or so from Congregation Sha'ar Zahav at 16th and Dolores, staff the program, homelessness having no religion.

There were a few speeches at the dinner. Shore collected several plaques and testimonials and explained that Father Edward Phelan, who is now at St. Elizabeth's Parish in San Francisco, and whom Shore said "everybody will really like," will replace him.

Shore then told a story about Timothy Lane-Propstra. "I baptized him like any other child," Shore said. But Timothy was dif-

ferent than most other kids Shore had christened. He was the first child of a gay or lesbian couple to be baptized in the church. His parents, Rob Lane and Don Propstra, had adopted Timothy. But in the usual way at the end of the ceremony, Shore said, he announced, "I give you Timothy." People clapped and clapped and kept clapping for a long time, Shore remembered.

Shore related that after the baptism he got a phone call from the bishop. "One of the parishioners had complained about the hoopla. 'What hoopla?'" Shore claimed he said, his voice lifting into an upper register of feigned innocence.

One of the last speakers was Timothy himself, who's now 11. "I'd like to say thank you to Father Shore for being there my whole life." ▼

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A board of one's own

Lesbian cyber-dating on craigslist.org

by Zak Szymanski

Femmes who like femmes: if you say one more derogatory thing about butches I swear to god I will hunt you down. Shut your goddamned mouths," read a recent posting on craigslist, the popular online community that is part of the lives of many Bay Area residents.

"You disgust me. You are no sister of mine," stated another post in response to a lesbian who was "tired of all the bisexuals in this section."

It's not unusual for craigslist (www.craigslist.org) to receive an abundance of anger-inspired commentary on its message boards. But what is unique about the above arguments is that they occur in a place where women are supposed to be courting each other for romance and friendship.

And so it goes in the women-seeking-women category of craigslist, a section that has "taken on a life of its own," according to Bryan Goski, one of two people who review the content posted on the craigslist Web site.

Goski's job is to deal with "flags," which allow the site's users to alert craigslist staff about postings that they deem offensive, hateful, or misplaced (i.e., a discussion occurring in a personals section). If craigslist agrees with the flaggers, it removes the posting from cyberspace. Overall, the site receives 500-700 flags per day. The women-seeking-women personals board, in Goski's estimation, is in the top three most frequently flagged sections, along with men-seeking-women and missed connections.

On the WSW board, users tend to take advantage of the "flagging" feature to delete postings with which they disagree, to the point that the flags themselves have become a public competition.

"Go ahead, flag me bitches," read one posting from a woman

upset that she was "ignored" by the bartenders at San Francisco's only full-time lesbian bar, the Lexington Club.

"Already been done!" read an almost instantaneous reply.

Yet discussions have become such an integral part of the women's personals board that there are two things visitors are bound to encounter on any given day: 1) a posting that asks people to take a particular discussion elsewhere, usually to the queer forum part of craigslist, which is equipped with software designed to handle multiple threads of conversation; and 2) a posting from a woman who is looking to be a part

Overall, it really raises awareness of the different communities in San Francisco and the Bay Area."

That is why craigslist tends to leave most of the postings up, particularly in the WSW category.

"It's almost as if the category and the W4W community is growing on its own, and we'd hate to impede something like that as it seems the natural progression of community," said Goski. "Most of the flags are attributed to discussions and we generally let the postings stay unless they are heavily flagged."

Other flags have targeted users' gender identities, which until recently caused some confusion for craigslist staff. Female-to-male

"You disgust me. You are no sister of mine," stated a post to a lesbian who was "tired of all the bisexuals in this section."

of a heated debate and sarcasticaly wonders, "What's up with all the personals on this board today?"

It should be noted that many users on the WSW personals are in favor of keeping the section discussion-friendly, in the spirit of having lesbian-specific conversations in women's space.

And not all the opinions posted on the WSW board are negative. For all the criticism aimed toward the Lexington Club, for instance (usually posted by women who feel left out of the local scene), there is even more praise for its "hot bartenders," especially after chaotic nights when they must heroically and physically evict drunk, aggressive men from the bar.

"It's also been a place for women to post events for the 'women for women' community which has been interesting," said Goski, who as a heterosexual charged with reading the flags finds the variety of postings "really informative and educational."

transgenders, for instance, often found themselves flagged and placed in the men-seeking-women category, despite the fact that they remained a part of the lesbian community. Craig Newmark, founder of craigslist, has since asked his staff to be more sensitive to the gender fluidity that pervades San Francisco's dyke scene.

"Overall, we try not to be heavy-handed," said Goski. "And although we have guidelines in place for the site, rules are made to be broken."

Local dykes have known for a while that the WSW section of craigslist is the best place to both get the scoop and dish the dirt. Are you a butch looking for a good barber? A newly out baby dyke in need of a glossary of lesbian terms? A femme who is tired of shy boy-girls that won't approach her in bars? Post a question, and you're bound to get several helpful answers. Who knows, you may even find a date. ▼

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Dyke March

◀ page 1

anti-war.

Although there have been whispers that the march will no longer accommodate female-to-male transgenders, Dyke March organizer Lisa Roth told the *Bay Area Reporter* that "as always, we love and respect our women's space, and that's a fundamental principle of the feminist movement. But we don't care if the woman participating has been a woman all her life or for an hour before the event. If FTMs aren't there to celebrate the woman parts of them, then frankly we don't understand why they would want to attend. And for people who straddle two genders, then it's really their choice."

Roth acknowledged that a group of people did approach the Dyke March this year and ask organizers to remove its "women only" language and requirement. Organizers refused, but made sure a transgender-inclusive statement appeared on the event's Web site, she said.

A statement from the Dyke March Web site states, "The Dyke March is a Women Only event and All Women are Welcome - and, as we always have, we leave it up to individuals to define their own gender(s). We embrace this view precisely because it is the

broadest and most inclusive, while upholding the basic feminist principle that women have a right to women-only space. This year, as always, Trans-folk are entirely welcome at the Dyke March."

The Dyke March, as is tradition, begins with a festival and rally at 3 p.m. in Dolores Park, at 18th and Dolores streets. A group breast exam will take place in honor of Jordan.

"You can feel your own breasts, or feel a neighbor's," said Roth. "If just one person finds something that allows her to save or improve her life, it will be worth it."

Featured speakers include Elena Fiallo and Oriana Bolden of Sister Rise Up and Bintl Thawra of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association and Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Scheduled performers include Blame Sally, Chi-Chi Palace, Fabulous Disaster, Kindness, Laura Chandler Band, Orquesta D' Soul, Shawna Virago and The Deadly Nightshade Family, Spoonful of Blues, and The Woodyz. Featured drag kings are Disposable Boy Toys and The Kings of Consciousness. Emcees are Tina D'Elia and Zulma Oliveras.

At 7:30 p.m. it is time to take to the streets and march through the Mission and Castro. As always, riders from the Women's Motorcycle Contingent will start their

engines to signify the beginning of the march. The Dyke March will be led by women in wheelchairs, women with children, a clean and sober contingent, and a women of color contingent. A special viewing section for LGBT seniors will be sponsored by New Leaf Services and Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and set up at 16th and Dolores streets. The march winds through the Mission District and spills into the after-party along Castro and Market streets, which really gets going after 9 p.m.

After-party emcees are Carmen Morrison and Fairy Butch (a.k.a. Karlyn Lotney). Deejays include Black, China G, Edaj, Gray, Loca SVL, Miss Puddy Santiago, Page Hodel, Stefanie Phillips, and The Specialist. Dancers include Aja, Carmen Morrison, Edaj, Erika Perez, Genie Bowie, Kebo Drew, Ronit, Richelle, Shannon, Tara Clay, Tina, and a fire performance by Simone Dela Getto. Sound will be mixed by Brooke DeLarco.

The Dyke March is wheelchair accessible and the rally will be sign language interpreted. Limited free parking is available for disabled dykes at the 16th and Hoff Street garage at 16th and Mission streets. A free shuttle will pick up attendees from that location between the hours of 3 to 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.dykemarch.org. ▼

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BiNet gets first exec. director

by Liz Highleyman

BiNet USA, the country's first and largest national organization for bisexual people and their allies, has made significant strides this year, hiring its first executive director and securing office space in San Francisco's new LGBT Community Center.

In January, Veneita Porter was hired as the organization's first paid staff member after a nationwide search. Prior to Porter's appointment, BiNet was completely run by volunteers.

Porter, a New Englander by birth, has a long history of progressive activism. She began teaching literacy and working with prisoners when she was in high school. She worked with the Gay Community News collective in Boston before becoming involved with some of the earliest AIDS education, care, and policy efforts in the early 1980s (she said she can remember working with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Pat Christen when Christen was still a volunteer). Porter headed the New York state Office of AIDS Discrimination and served as a member of the Ryan White Planning Council.

Since moving to the Bay Area in the early 1990s, Porter has worked as executive director of the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, director of education and publications for Planned Parenthood of San Francisco, and director of community outreach for the Stop AIDS Project.

BiNet's mission is to work toward the elimination of biphobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation by creating and promoting fair, accurate, and inclusive representation of bisexuals in the media. The organization – then known as the North American Multicultural Bisexual Network –

originated at the first national bisexual conference, held in San Francisco in 1990, and has since grown to nearly 1,000 members.

Porter told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she sees the bisexual community at a crossroads. Many of the more "queer-identified" bisexuals have found a place within the LGBT arena, but those who are less queer-identified have nowhere to go. The bisexual community is made up of many different subsets, and Porter wants to explore how such diverse groups can come together into a coherent whole.

"We don't just want to play in the sandbox," said Porter. "We want our own sandbox."

Porter acknowledged that the number of people who are politically active around the issue of bisexuality is small, and she is interested in finding committed new activists who can take over the reins from the veterans who have built the bi community and movement.

She also acknowledged the irony that while in the early years of the bi movement many bisexuals felt marginalized within both the straight world and the gay and lesbian communities, today many young people are so accepting of relationships with both women and men that they don't see bisexuality as an issue worth mobilizing around.

Porter said that BiNet's current goals revolve around advocacy and education, as well as the challenge of building an institution and keeping it running as it makes the often difficult transition from a grassroots, volunteer network to a more professional organization.

BiNet is working with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation on a bi media packet, and Porter hopes to collaborate with other organizations on projects such as a media alert system and media trainings. Last fall, BiNet worked with GLAAD and



BiNet's Veneita Porter

CNN to produce an educational television segment on bisexuality.

Porter, whose partner is an FTM man, said she admires GenderPAC as an organization that has successfully moved beyond orientation and identity to address gender as a broader issue.

With the current Bush administration's focus on marriage, abstinence, and welfare reform, Porter believes we are living in politically dangerous times and could see a 21st century version of the Inquisition.

"We must move beyond a one-note agenda," she declared. "Where are the gay and bi homeless people, the gay and bi prisoners?" The bi community must learn to work in coalition, she said, and understand that "some basic human needs must be met."

BiNet is currently seeking new board members, especially ones with previous board, media, and fundraising experience. Applications are due June 30 and new members will be selected at BiNet's August meeting.

As for this year's Pride events, the seventh annual Fence-sitters Ball, a bi dance party featuring DJs Amber and Pimprock, will take place Friday, June 28 at Jezebel's Joint, 510 Larkin Street, in San Francisco. On Sunday, the bisexual contingent (#29) will gather on Beale Street between Market and Mission. ▼

To learn more about BiNet, visit www.BiNetUSA.org.

Be yourself – good advice

by Jadine Louie

There once was a time when you couldn't be gay unless you were white and male, you couldn't be lesbian unless you were separatist, you couldn't be L/G if you were B, and you couldn't be T and be treated with basic human respect. Our movement has often reacted to the dominant monoculture that shows its disdain for us by creating our own monosubcultures that show their disdain for each other. Look at the history of immigration in the U.S., with wave after wave escaping oppression in other countries so they could freely practice oppressing others here. Thank goodness we're past that. We are past that, aren't we?

For years now we've been Q, a name forged in the democratic fires of our soon-to-be previously known as GLBT tradition. Personally, I'm okay with this. Not because it is my label of choice, but because I can't think of anything that anyone will like better, and I'd rather focus on other things.

I'm a classical musician, so I'm



Jadine Louie

fundamentally a nerd. Sometimes it's been hard to bear the implication that I don't get to be a queer artist if I don't market myself as cutting edge/avant garde/radical. Don't Copland, Bernstein, Barber, and Tchaikovsky count? I don't have short hair, so for a while I didn't think I was a lesbian, either. It's simpler for me now. Radical, non-monogamous, separatist, allergic to kids – these and other orthodoxies tossed up over the years

are all like blonde hair: true for some people, just not me.

One of the things queer people are supposed to be is angry. I can get behind that. But I'm not that pissed off at bigots who hide their fear behind religious quotations extracted with surgical precision or, better yet, those who amplify and justify hatred with that handy canvas of personal insecurity: concern for children. As a teacher, I have experience with the "what about the children?" business. And while such piss poor examples of critical thinking drive me nuts, I just can't muster enough respect for – or fear of – proponents of the God-hates-fags perspective to elevate my pity to rage.

So many pieces of bait, so little time – you have to be selective. It's easy to say to our zealous social opponents, "Knock yourselves out. Be as hypocritical as you like." I save the slow burn for my own: expectation is in direct proportion to love and respect. Here we are demanding the world not prejudice us. We're crying out to be seen as individuals, three-dimensional humans in all our rainbow diversity, evaluated by our actions. And how

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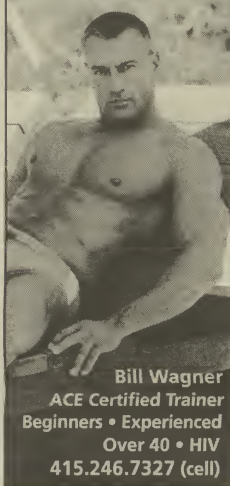
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How am I supposed to be proud?

by Seth Watkins

Be Yourself, Change The World? I wonder just how being myself will change the world. Sometimes I feel like I'm so messed up that the changes that I'll be inspiring won't be good for myself or those around me. How can I feel proud of myself or my interactions with others around me when I don't always feel like I'm living the life that I want to?

My therapist recently told me that at this moment in my life, clinically speaking, "I was fucked up." Now, how am I supposed to take that diagnosis in stride? How am I supposed to think about being my "fucked up self" and changing the world? How am I supposed to be proud of that?

Then I started thinking, the world's a fucked up place anyway. I mean, when I'm not allowed to marry the man that I love, serve in the military, adopt a child in most places, or when I can get fired for being gay, then something is definitely fucked up.

When my face gets plastered all over the Sunday edition of the *New York Times* as a barebacking HIV prevention worker out trying to infect others with HIV, the world's fucked up. When some reporter that I trusted fabricates the story and doesn't discuss the entire truth about what we talked about in that interview and portrays me so inaccurately, then, I know the world's fucked up.

When I can't commit to a stable relationship with another man because I'm never satisfied or keep falling in love with a guy who doesn't love me, then I know the world's fucked up. When I limit myself to only dating other HIV-

positive guys so that I don't have to feel rejected for my status or this virus inside of me, then I know the world's fucked up.

Then, I stop to think of the positive changes that I've made in my life and to those around me. I begin to think of the positive accomplishments that I've achieved in the world and then, I don't think the world's that fucked up.

I think about Matthew Shepard, Billy Jack Gaither, and Fred Martinez Jr. and other victims of hate crimes. I remember how I helped organize vigils in their memory. I remember how I advocated for a national hate crimes bill adding sexual orientation, gender, and disability to the hate crimes statute at the federal level, then, the world doesn't seem to be that fucked up.

I remember advocating for the Dignity for All Students Act for two years to protect LGBTQ youth in California schools. I remember the day that Governor Gray Davis signed it into law, recalling Matthew Shepard when as he did so. I remember crying tears of happiness that day and then, the world doesn't seem to be that fucked up.

I remember reconnecting with my biological mother after 20 years of not hearing from her or knowing if she was dead or alive. I remember sending her letters, pictures, and gifts for Christmas and never receiving anything similar from her. I was lucky to get a phone call every few months. Still, it's a start and I know she's alive and that she says that she loves me and then, the world doesn't seem to be that fucked up.

I remember all of the people that I've met in my life. I remember my chosen family and friends and how much they really love me.



Seth Watkins

I recall how they fulfill my life with happiness and would do anything for me. Then, I come to realize that I'm very blessed and that it's mainly my perception of the world, which makes it seem so fucked up.

What comes to mind is personal responsibility and how it affects those around me. I need to allow myself the opportunity to heal and forgive myself. I need to believe in the goodness of strangers and believe in myself. I need to have faith in the universe and believe that things will get better, will change for the better.

I need to be proud of the fact that I can admit that I'm not perfect. I need to be proud of the fact that even though my actions and behaviors aren't always good for me, that I'm doing something with my life. As I learn that the world isn't perfect and that I'm not perfect then, I need to be proud of the fact that I'm still alive. I'm still here and still have a chance to change the world and myself for the better, and that's what pride means to me. ▼

Seth Watkins is an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade.

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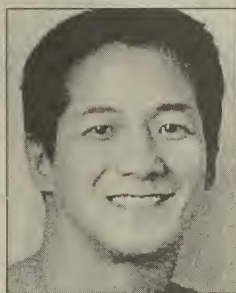
Celebrate Pride year-round

by Frank Woo

Since coming out to my parents over five years ago and the traumatic experience resulting from that process, I've been left with the feeling that we can never do enough to take care of our fellow and future LGBT brothers and sisters.

As a native San Franciscan with a large support network of friends and extended family members, I received a huge amount of support that made my coming-out experience more bearable. I suppose it's true that, "For every wrong, there is a right." Because of my parent's hatred and ignorance, that pushed me to ensure that The LGBT Community Center became a reality.

Serving on the LGBT Community Center's board of directors has been the most rewarding experience in my life. It's been an honor to work with such dedicated and committed volunteers, many of whom gave so much of their time and forfeited their livelihood to make Harvey Milk's vision of a community center become a reality. Our common goal was to create, build, and open a center where anyone and everyone would feel welcome. It goes to show that amazing things can happen when we work together.



Frank Woo

It's been a long and arduous task from outreach work in the mid- to late-1990s to hear what community members needed in a center, to breaking ground in October 1999, and finally to opening the doors in March 2002. But, seeing the diversity in the center, feeling the energy as I step through the doors, and seeing how people have accepted the center as if it's been here for years - it's been well worth it! We truly have a community center where Pride can be celebrated year-round.

In the first 100 days since the center opened, more than 15,000 people have walked through the doors. At this rate, we will certainly surpass the estimate of 48,000 people in the first year of operation. In

the first 100 days of operation, the center has hosted separate community forums with the African American, Asian American, and Latino/a communities. Time and again we heard from these community members and leaders that they had not met as a community in years. The center serves as a neutral space for the community.

How appropriate with this year's Pride theme, "Be Yourself, Change the World," that The LGBT Community Center is honored as the organization grand marshal. The center is serving as a venue, a home, for people to be who and what they are. What a perfect way for an individual to be him or herself, discover that they're not the lone LGBT person out there, make connections with other diverse community members, and group together to go out and "Change the World."

We are living in a time of uncertainty, fear, and stress. I urge my brothers and sisters to take time for one another, to care for one another, and to be kind to one another. We all need to band together to fight the true enemies. Remember, amazing things can happen when we work together. ▼

Frank Woo is an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade.



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VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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Information for Patients about VIRACEPT® (Zidovudine, 3TC)

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For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT."

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zert® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT)

Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zert® (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Virmune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets	
Kg	Lb			
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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OBITUARIES

Jon Kevin Linck



Jon Kevin Linck (known to all his friends and acquaintances simply as "Linck"), passed away on Wednesday evening, May 29, 2002, at Desert Regional Hospital in Palm Springs. He was 48.

Linck, like many gay men of his generation, was a much more complex man than he appeared on the surface. He loved cigars, and brass, the color orange, wildflowers and his leather community. After his move to the Bay Area in 1972 he became a member of, or associated with at one time or another, several of the bike clubs, including the Golden Gate Guards, the Constantines, the Knights of Malta and the San Franciscans and was a regular feature at the Eagle Sunday afternoon beer busts prior to his decline in health.

He was very dedicated to his employer SBC Pacific Bell and put his integrity into every job he ever did. He was very proud of being a Master Gardener and especially of being one of Mama Reinhardt's boys (Mama's Missing Linck).

In recent years he fell in love with the desert and despite his deteriorating condition he and his partner Rick Yarbrough moved there in December. Linck is survived by his partner Rick, his beloved cat Extra (who never left his side), and by his parents Jan and Jim Linck in Glendale, a sister, Marlys in Washington and countless friends. His good company and his total silliness will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Donations should be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF), in memory of Linck. A memorial service will be held sometime in the summer.

Edward Mattox

September 16, 1933 — June 11, 2002

Edward Mattox was born and raised in Chicago. After serving briefly in the U.S. Navy (he was discharged for enlisting at 17 and for being gay), he moved to Los Angeles where he was employed as houseman to Loretta Young, Kay Starr and others. He lived in New York briefly before finally settling in San



Francisco where he was employed by various decorators, including the late Billie Gaylord.

There will be a short memorial service and interment of his ashes in the Memorial Garden of St. Francis

Lutheran Church after the eleven o'clock mass on July 14th at noon. A reception will follow at 2 p.m. at his last residence on Bernal Heights.

For further information contact Richard at (415) 826-2960.

Sean Marc Ramirez

August 28, 1964 — April 11, 2002

Sadly and tragically Sean passed from this earthly life and has begun a new journey free from pain and suffering. Sean was born in Palo Alto and was



raised in Berkeley. At a very early age it was very apparent to all those who knew him he was destined for a career in the Arts.

Sean found his calling in Ballet. He was a member of the Oakland Ballet for over 15 years, giving great pleasure to all those who were fortunate enough to see him perform. Sean touched many of us with his humor and wit. Although he was quite shy when you first met him, if you became friends you were in for the ride of your life. Ever loyal Sean would defend his friends and family to the end of his life. He was never one to judge us and always made everyone feel comfortable about himself or herself when in his presence. For many of us Sean gave us the courage and inspiration to come out of the closet and start enjoying life.

Sean is survived by his Mother Jacqueline Hardiman of Berkeley, Grand Mother Emma Hardiman of Los Angeles, Sister, Writer and Actor Lisa Ramirez of New York, Brother Christian Ramirez of Oakland, Twin Sister Jeanne Ramirez Bertero, her husband Adolph, and niece Gabriela of Kensington. Sean also leaves behind his best friend and confidant Kelly Keith of San Francisco.

Sean you are one of the first things we think about when we awake in the morning and the last thing we think about when we go to sleep. We continue to feel your presence in our daily lives and look forward to the day when we are united with you again. Take care my friend and I will see you on the other side of the rainbow someday. Dance with the Angels, my dear Sean, until we meet again, we love you and miss you Sounder.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. No poetry. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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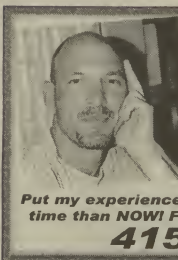
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Runners & skaters & ruggers, oh my!

by Jim Provenzano

I had the strangest dream. It was in a magical city called Oz, and you were there, and you, and you.

As the rumors continue to swirl about pro jocks, I see them more as men behind the curtain, stirring up a lot of smoke and mirrors.

Consider the more authentic contributions of hundreds of proudly out athletes of every kind right here in our own back yard. They have brains, and heart, and most of all, unlike millionaire subjects of rumors, "da nerve" to be who they are.

This Pride weekend offers a wealth of activities, including three major sports events. This is your chance to see some Gay Games hopefuls on their own turf. Click your cleats — or skates — and remember, there's no place like homo.

Run, don't walk

"We are honored to have the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence as the official race starters," said Reggie Snowden, vice president of San Francisco Frontrunners and the race director for the annual Pride Run this Saturday, June 29. What better way to start off a Bay Area sports event than with a drag blessing?

Snowden is a multi-medal competitor who took gold in the 110 hurdles and triple jump at the last two Gay Games. Snowden also recently won his first two gold medals on a national level in the U.S. Indoor Masters Track and Field Championships that were held in Boston in March.

"The gold medals were in the long jump and my first pentathlon," said Snowden. "I look forward to competing in Sydney in November. The SF Track and Field Club have quite the reputation for gold in past Gay Games, and I am sure they will maintain such a polished reputation."

This year, San Francisco Frontrunners celebrates its 27th anniversary as the founding chapter of an international gay, lesbian and transgender athletic organization in the world.

On Saturday, at 9 a.m., the 23rd annual Pride Run will take place in Golden Gate Park starting at Stow Lake. Named after the groundbreaking Patricia Nell Warren novel, Frontrunners includes many members of the San Francisco Track & Field Club.

Rick Thoman, a founding member of the SFT&FC, as well as a medalist in all five Gay Games, said that his club "is currently preparing to continue our reign as one of the dominant forces in Gay Games track and field."

"We have a team of about 30 athletes participating in Sydney, one of our smallest due to the timing and expense of the Games," he said. "But the team will be well-represented by a mix of experienced Gay Games medalists (such as Gwynn Villegas, Brian Mutert, Allen Eggman, and Luke Cottrill), as well as an out-

standing group of newcomers, including a number of athletes that will give us our largest group of field events competitors in the team's history. Multi-medalist Frank Demby returns for the third time as the team's coach."

Thoman will be returning to compete in his sixth consecutive Gay Games, one of almost 50 such veterans, according to Sydney's statistics.

"The Games continue to be a source of pride and enjoyment for me," said Thoman. "I'm grateful to be able to experience another Games with all the wonderful athletes we have on the team."

One new member of the team is Nora McLoughlin, who will compete in sprints and relays, and be in the Pride Run this Saturday.

"I'm new to the whole team thing, and to track events," said the e-commerce businesswoman. "I just decided that this year I really wanted to do something different."

With experience in field hockey, basketball, swimming, and hiking stretching back to her youth in the 1970s, she's no stranger to sports.

The Brookline, Massachusetts native has been running with the team since January. "I had one little injury that set me back for a month, but it's all healed," she said.

The Little Black Dress Run, a fun and campy drag event held earlier this year, was her initiation to the group. "I felt like a weirdo for not wearing a dress," she joked. Since then, she's enjoyed the runs with a less formal dress code.

"It's just so thrilling," she said. "I'm doing it for community and for good health, but it's turning into a delightful experience. There's a lot of diversity in Frontrunners; all colors, all ages."

Next month, McLoughlin will join other team members at track meets in Los Gatos to compete and, "get into the rhythm of competition. The entire team is gearing up, congealing more. By the summer, we'll be even more focused. We really want to peak in November. I've had training, so I can take the guidance. It's totally cool."

The proceeds from this Saturday's Pride Run will be split equally between two outstanding local charities — Positive Resource Center and the Metropolitan Community Foundation.

In previous years, SF Frontrunners has donated funds to the Family Link AIDS Hospice, the Lavender Youth Information and Recreation Center, the LGBT Community Center, the Stop AIDS Project, and the Lyon-Martin Women's Healthcare Project.

You can register online for the 5K/10K run/walk at www.Active.com or at www.sffrontrunners.org. Awards will be given to the female and male top three finishers in the various age categories: under 20, then 10 year increments; top male and female walkers for the 5K; and the wheelchair division. A stylish 100 percent cotton T-shirt will be given to all registered participants.

Late registration: at Stow Lake picnic area 7:30-8:30 on race day

morning. Late registrants can pick up their packets on race day morning at the number pickup table.

Entry forms can be picked up at InJenious at 432 Castro Street or register online. For questions, contact us at www.sffrontrunners.org or (415) 978-2429.

Icing on the cake

The thrill of victory and the agony of corrupt judges at Salt Lake City may be a mere memory to figure skating fans. Watching figure skaters compete in Skate Out 2002, a fun and campy event, Saturday, June 29 at 5 p.m., should stir up new joys, with none of those nasty bribed judges.

Most of these skaters are training for the upcoming Gay Games in Sydney, Australia. Among the skaters are U.S. adult national gold level champion, Jay Kobayashi. Aside from Kobayashi's skating talent, his Michelle Kwan impersonation will have you laughing, crying, and cheering for perfect 6.0 scores.

"We have a dozen skaters scheduled, with some skaters doing two programs and then of course the final skate-off of the top four skaters," said longtime gay skating organizer Thom Mullins.

"Unfortunately, in pairs, we had an injury," he said. "So all the skaters at this event will be doing singles. We have three women skating, one being a master level skater from Las Vegas and another is the director of the International Gay Figure Skating Union, Laura Moore, from New York City."

Some skaters will be competing, some will be testing to qualify for the level in which they wish to compete at the Gay Games, while others will just be skating for fun and prizes.

Aside from the real judging, the audience can get in on the fun. Judges will qualify four skaters for a final skate-off. Then the audience picks their final standing of the top three skaters and the generous bevy of prizes community businesses have donated.

Mullins offered some background on just how important such GLBT-inclusive events are.

"Adult skating is pretty new territory in most countries. In the U.S., Canada, France, and Germany, there are organized movements. But as the medals and sanctioning problems at Gay Games Amsterdam showed, producing a figure skating event on an international scale is no easy task, since few skating federations even recognize adult athletes.

"The International Skating Union, accused of homophobia because of its non-sanction of the Gay Games, was simply ill-equipped to deal with such a request," Mullins said. "There are no internationally agreed-upon testing levels, no rules regarding age breakdown. None of the rules for the Gay Games, from entry level skaters in intro categories to pros skating with non-pros, fit into the structure of organized skating."

"Who actually was at fault remains debatable, and for years things have remained at a stalemate," he said. "Without the proper sanction, participating becomes a matter of choosing the Gay

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Sports Complex

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Games over participating in all other local, regional and national skating events."

The IGFSU has become an administrative member of the International Skating Institute, long considered the recreational side of the sport. The ISI (not to be confused with the ISU) has international standing and other skating organizations worldwide recognize ISI-endorsed events and permit their skaters to freely participate.

"Our events will include same-sex pairs and same-sex dance, as well as mixed pairs and dance," said Mullins. "So it truly will be the Gay Games."

"To help skaters training for the Gay Games, we've created a series of events, including Skate Out, where skaters are encouraged to compete. The tests have been consolidated to include required maneuvers and a program skated to music at the highest level tested."

Skaters who wish to neither test nor compete can simply participate by skating an exhibition. So, there is something for everyone.

There will be two more events in the U.S. with the same format prior to the Gay Games, including IGFSU East in New York and IGFSU West in Los Angeles.

This Saturday's event gives us the thrill of a real Ice Capade. Donation is \$10. Skate Out takes place at the Yerba Buena Ice Center in San Francisco, 750 Folsom Street, between 3rd & 4th. Arrive

early, as seating is limited. Call (415) 820-3535 or visit www.32degreesmagazine.com/skatout.html.

Rugger huggin'

It's not often that Americans get to see a rugby match on TV, let alone live. But this weekend should please fans of the rough and tumble precursor to the more rules-hampered and felony-conviction-filled U.S. version of football.

The International Gay Rugby Association and Board will hold the inaugural Mark Kendall Bingham Cup on June 28-29.

The competition will pit most of the world's gay rugby teams against each other. With more than 120 gay rugby players from around the world in one spot, they should be quite an affably masculine herd.

This November will be the first time rugby is included in Gay Games. Part of that effort to build this community comes from IGRAB, a network of the world's gay rugby clubs dedicated to encouraging lesbians and gay men everywhere to play rugby.

IGRAB constitutionally covers rugby union, rugby league, sevens rugby, quad (wheelchair) rugby, and touch rugby. Rugby union is the largest part of rugby—it is the third most popular team sport in the world—hence IGRAB's focus is biased toward this code of rugby, which like soccer, is immensely popular in most countries outside the U.S.

Currently the club members of IGRAB are: the Kings Cross Steelers (London, United Kingdom), the Village Spartans (Manchester,



SF Fog player Paul Connolly

United Kingdom); Buenos Aires Rugby (Buenos Aires, Argentina); the Washington Renegades (USA); the Ponsonby Heroes (Auckland, New Zealand); the Wellington Knights (Wellington, New Zealand); and the San Francisco Fog (USA).

The focus of IGRAB is club-based, but individuals can join IGRAB via worldwide teams.

There were some informal teams started in South Africa in the early 1990s. The first gay rugby club to become formally established was the Kings Cross Steelers in London, which was founded in November 1995.

Along with the presence of Sir Ian McKellen—who, unlike the fictional Wizard of Oz, has worked gay-positive magic all his own—I can't imagine a more momentous and unique addition to this year's Pride events.

In discussing the birth of the gay rugby league, I'll offer some

words that apply to all gay sports.

Although written before his untimely yet heroic death on September 11, SF Fog's Mark Bingham, for whom the event is named, had this to say: "This is a great opportunity to change a lot of people's minds, and to reach a group that might never have had a chance to know or hear about gay people."

Matches are 15-a-side, according to the rules of rugby union, and with 20-minute halves. The tournament will be held at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park.

Friday, June 28, the tournament starts at 9 a.m. Saturday's tournament and finals also start at 9 a.m. The athletes also will be attending several private parties, and marching as a contingent in the parade on Sunday.

Call (866) 841-9139, ext. 3895 or visit www.sffog.org, or www.igrab.net/tournaments.html.

Tote? Oh, too

So, what's it gonna be, Dorothy? Wait for a major league mystery to tell you it's okay to be a jock? Or walk down that yellow brick road on your own?

I'll see you Saturday and Sunday at the New Conservatory Theatre Center booth, in Civic Center, in front of the Asian Art Museum. You can find out all about NCTC's Pride Season 8, including *PINS*. It's a play, it's a book, it's a tote bag! ▼

Until then, visit www.nctcsf.org or www.sportscomplex.org. Have a great Pride, and don't forget the sunblock.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 258004

The following person(s) are doing business as: California State Funding Group. 767 Panorama Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Pamela Camar, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257998

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Pride hits SF!

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ed at Hyde and Golden Gate, will present alternative electronica to the LGBT community.

Now in its second year, the Nectar stage for women will feature Ferron, The Hail Marys, Nedra Johnson, Kinnie Starr, and Kaia Wilson, to name a few. The stage is located on Golden Gate between Hyde and Leavenworth.

The always-fierce Asian and Pacific Islander stage, at Golden Gate and Polk, will feature DJ dancing and performances by the GAPA Dance Company and the Rice Girls, with headlines including the alternative band Julie Plug, Australia's Filipina Diva Floreile

Escano, and teen pop sensation, April. For more information visit www.apiwelness.org.

The Soul of Pride African American stage, at McAllister near Hyde, will feature hip-hop, reggae, soul, funk, gospel, and more throughout the day. Don't miss Blackberri's folk funk, DeepDick collective's homo-hop, the John Muir Elementary Kid's Village Dance Crew, or the Glide Church Supreme Steppers.

The Latin stage, now in its fifth year, remains one of the most popular venues at Pride. A collaboration of Club Papi and Latin Explosion, two of Northern California's biggest dance parties, the stage features top Latin DJs and performers. This year, direct from Columbia is Sonora Dinamita,

and from Mexico, the pop star Fey. The stage is located at Van Ness and McAllister.

And finally, the main stage will feature an all-star lineup on Sunday, including Bitch & Animal at 12:30 p.m.; Pansy Division at 3:30; Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family at 1:20; the cast of Stomp at 1:30; Marcella Detroit at 1:45; Janis Ian at 2:15; Dead or Alive at 4; and Marc Almond at 4:45.

Aside from Pride stages, many organizations will be hosting their own booths at the festival, including Our Family Coalition, which will be sponsoring domestic partnership registrations in a mobile chapel on Sunday along McAllister Street; visit www.ourfamily.org for information. And DanceSafe will

sponsor a harm reduction booth on Grove Street where people can get their ecstasy tested for sometimes-fatal adulterants; pick up ear plugs for the noisy dance venues; and get information on how to party more safely. Visit www.dance-safe.org for more information.

Of course, there are too many official and unofficial Pride-related events to mention, including the 24th annual Pride concert on Friday, June 28; the International Gay Rugby Tournament (a.k.a. The Bingham Cup), June 28-29; and the official Pride dance, Re-Union, on June 29.

To get all the details, set aside some time to browse the Internet and visit www.sfpide.org, where the events are plenty and the information is easy to access. ▼

AIDS Grove tag

◀ page 3

At about 9 a.m. Friday, June 21, Pavich said a park gardener called the grove's offices to report the vandalism. The graffiti was found mostly in the grove's Circle of Friends area and was spray painted on engraved names and bare spots on some of the memorial's stonework.

"It seems appalling in a city that is considered as tolerant as any city in America that we would still have people defacing public property that is particularly the AIDS memorial," said Gary Pike, co-chair of the grove's board of directors.

By Friday afternoon, Pavich said they had cleaned most of the graffiti from the memorial. He estimated the cleanup cost at \$500.

"First I feel angry that someone would do this and then I feel sad someone would need to desecrate a memorial to anyone," Pavich said. "When someone writes 'kill a fag' on a memorial site it becomes extreme."

Due to the tagger's leaving identifying marks, Pavich said they are confident police will find the perpetrators of the hate crime.

"The person who did the graffiti left his tag name all over it so they know who he is. We are hoping they will be able to find him fairly quickly," said Pavich.

For now, grove officials said they will continue to try to minimize the chance of homeless people and vandals loitering in the

grove by pruning trees and bushes and alerting police patrolling the area in the evening to check on the grove as much possible.

"We have in the past talked with police authorities to make sure they were a little more aware of our need for patrol and try to keep an eye on things to make sure we don't have the kinds of problems we had last week," said Pike. "It shows while we are about finished with our endowment to

maintain the grove there is an ongoing need. I hope we will have continued support from the community to keep the grove pristine and the special place it is."

As for Sergeant Limbert, he said the incident has only added to the pain of losing his best friend.

"I am really torn up about this. I thought we had moved past that," he said. "But homophobia is alive and well." ▼

Be yourself

◀ page 21

have we gone about this? By generalizing that all Christians are homophobic, all celebrities are wise, all children have cooties, all whites are racist, all persons of color are not, all money (that isn't ours?) is evil, all queer people are cool, all old people are outdated, all suburbanites are Republican, and all Republicans are like Jesse Helms.

Maybe replaying history is part of the process, like finding all of the wrong answers to those irrational

Zen riddles. Maybe we're simply double-checking that thinking of people in "us" and "them" categories, asserting your identity by holding others in contempt, and deciding to ease up on the fight for justice as soon as you get enough for yourself are just as lazy, insecure, and short-sighted today as ever.

This year's San Francisco Pride celebration asks you to be yourself. Good advice. Don't let anyone else—no matter how chic—tell you what that is. Try not to tell anyone else what (s)he is, either. Human history is full of lives wounded by the power of saying

who someone is or isn't. As long as we keep wielding names and stereotypes as weapons against more thoughtful and, yes, less certain ways of seeing each other, the cycles of personal and social injustice are just a game that we are trying to win instead of a game that we are trying to end. ▼

Jadine Louie is a native San Franciscan and the artistic director of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. She is an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

FREE WATER PLAY DAY

Sponsored by SF Recreation and Parks Dept. and SF Public Utilities Comm., SF's free Water Play Day for all children will be held on Saturday, June 29 at McKinley School, 1024 14th Street (Castro) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Children will get to explore hands-on experiments about surface tension, capillary action and erosion. Communities groups such as the SF Fire Department, California Trout and others will also have fun exhibits.

For more information, contact the SF Public Utilities Comm. at (415) 923-2474.

INVITATION FOR BIDS - Solicitation No: 02-600-1FB-017

The SF Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for the Repair of 23 Canopies at CAL 1-10, POTRERO ANNEX, located in San Francisco.

A site inspection will be held at 1095 Connecticut St., Resident Manager's Office, on Tuesday, July 2, 2002, at 10:00 a.m., with a pre-bid conference to follow.

All bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. (PST) and read aloud on the date of July 17, 2002. Questions regarding this solicitation may be directed to David Leash, Senior Project Manager, at (415) 715-5940.

Contact Carolina at (415) 715-3171 for contract documents, available after June 17, 2002. A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents.

SPUC INVITES CONTRACTORS TO BID ON THE FOLLOWING JOBS: WD-2393 SEISMIC UPGRADE OF BAY DIVISION PIPELINES 1&2 AT HAYWARD FAULT CROSSING - PHASE B

Contract work will include replacing the existing 60" diameter BDPL No. 1 and the 66" diameter BDPL No. 2 at the Hayward fault crossing area with new City furnished pipes, the construction of a retaining wall, and landscaping work. The work is to be performed in Alameda County, California. The Engineer's estimate is \$2,932,000.00. A Class "A" California Contractors License is required to bid.

A pre-bid conference and site inspection will be held on July 9, 2002, 10:00 AM, at 3528 Eugene Street, Fremont, California.

Sealed bids are due on July 18, 2002, 2:00 PM.*

HH-903 PRIEST RESERVOIR BYPASS — PIPELINE

Contract work will include the installation of a 9-foot diameter reinforced concrete cylinder pipeline approximately 1,200 feet long with connections at the Mountain Tunnel and Moccasin Power Tunnel; the construction of a substation building; the construction of a rock trap structure; the installation of flap gates, a butterfly valve, sluice gates, a turbidity monitoring system, and an emergency generator. The work is to be performed in Tuolumne County, California. The Engineer's estimate is \$8,908,250. A Class "A" California Contractors License is required to bid.

A pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on July 2, 2002, 10:00 A.M., at the Conference Room, Moccasin Engineering Building of Hetch Hetchy Water & Power, in Moccasin, California.

Sealed bids are due on July 25, 2002, 2:00 PM.*

*Sealed bids will be received at 1155 Market St., 7th Flr., (between 7th and 8th Streets) SF, CA 94103, in Room 700. Plans, specifications and bidding documents are available at the same location at no cost, by fax (415) 554-3225, or by phone (415) 554-3497. Check website for updates: <http://sunset.ci.sf.ca.us/pbids.nsf>.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540289

In the Matter of the Application of Ronald David Stinnett. For change of Name. The application of Ronald David Stinnett for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ronald David Stinnett has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Starlight. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540296

In the Matter of the Application of Regina Dawn Hubbard For change of Name. The application of Regina Dawn Hubbard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Regina Dawn Hubbard has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Regina Dawn Leonard. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 1st day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258301
The following person(s) are doing business as: Brian Chen Jewelry Mfg. 760 Market Street Suite 949, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian X. Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 13, 1988. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/07/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258260
The following person(s) are doing business as: She-a & He-a, Out With The Girls. 137 Crown Court, #6, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shannon Craine. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 05, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/05/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258351

The following person(s) are doing business as: Delicious Records, 584 Castro Street, #370, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Mahr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/10/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258279

The following person(s) are doing business as: Offbeat On Haight, 1599 A Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bassem R. Sirhed. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/06/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 256788

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Specialty Merchandise Distributor. Located at: 9 Apollo Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 11, 2002. This business was conducted by: a individual: Peter K. Lee.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258176

The following person(s) are doing business as: Royal Ground Coffee, 2060 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258507

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cusum Entertainment And Production. 1419 Quesada Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Gregory L. Griffin and Carl E. Gardner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 14, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/14/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258175

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wash N Royal, 2066 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258380

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Miguel Restaurant #2, 3263 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Juana Gomez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/11/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257961

The following person(s) are doing business as: Doctor Diesel Truck Sales, 401 Terry Francis Blvd. #132, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mark Anthony Armstrong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258045

The following person(s) are doing business as: Allion Finance, 44 Montgomery Street, Ste. #2310, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Diana R. Karabels. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258572

The following person(s) are doing business as: Geneva Jacuzzi And Tanning, 974 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thuy Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 13, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/17/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540321

In the Matter of the Application of Frederick Bernard Sims. For change of Name. The application of Frederick Bernard Sims for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frederick Bernard Sims, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Frederick Freedom Bernard Sims. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of August, 2002, at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540315

In the Matter of the Application of Aaron Dean Beierschmitt For change of Name. The application of Aaron Dean Beierschmitt for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Aaron Dean Beierschmitt, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Aaron Dean Toomey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of August, 2002, at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Nam Jung Ae, Nam Ki Chung. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street Suite #5400 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3318 Steiner Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. Type of License Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

JUNE 27, 2002

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 258591

The following person(s) are doing business as: Prestige Electric, 325 Buckingham Way Apt. 501, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yevgeniy Iolin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/18/2002.

JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258684

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lanxang Thai Video, 626 Ellis Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jheng Chawavong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/21/2002.

JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258571

The following person(s) are doing business as: R.P.A.R. Designs, 631 O'Farrell Street #308, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Ray P. Pangillinan and Antonio R. Rubin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/15/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/17/2002.

JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258140

The following person(s) are doing business as: Echobone Interior Design, 1206 4th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Susan Williamson/president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/31/2002.

JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258639

The following person(s) are doing business as: Theo-SF, 414 Liberty Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Theo Eldon Garcia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/19/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/19/2002.

JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 227662

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Lanxang Thai Video Rental. Located at: 640 Turk Street #48, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 12/22/1998. This business was conducted by: a individual: Kene Keo Bandophone

JUNE 27, JULY 4, 11, 18, 2002

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E30

NOTICES

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City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Qualifications #219 Dear Potential Applicant: The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals interested in contracting to serve as the Ombudsman for the Family and Children's Services Division. The Ombudsman will serve as a liaison between the SFDHS and the children and families accessing the services of the SFDHS. The Ombudsman resolves complaints from clients and foster and adoptive parents by maintaining telephone hotlines to receive queries and responding promptly to those queries. The Ombudsman will gather information and file official complaints when necessary. Most importantly, the Ombudsman will serve as an impartial intermediary between the complainant and the appropriate Department staff in order to effect a fair resolution of the situation. The contract period will run from 7/1/02 to 6/30/03 for an amount to be determined. An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Monday, July 1, 2002. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. The RFQ packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after July 1, 2002. Go to [HTTP://SUNSET.CLSFCA.US/PRIDS.NSF](http://SUNSET.CLSFCA.US/PRIDS.NSF) and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link. The Respondent's Conference will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 at 10:00 AM at 1650 Mission St. Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Kimberly Ferguson at (415) 557-5585. Due date for responses is Wednesday, July 31, 2002 at 5:00 PM. 06/27/02 CNA - 407794 BAY AREA REPORTER

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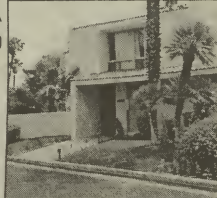
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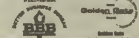


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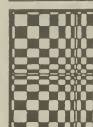
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page 46

Churchill downs
Berkeley Rep revives Caryl Churchill's 'Cloud Nine.'
page 39



Cesare soars at SFO
Ruth Ann Swenson and David Daniels score.
page 43



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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SIR IAN MCKELLEN BRINGS HIS CHARMS TO SAN FRANCISCO

A GAY KNIGHT OUT

by Adam Sandel

The theme of this year's Pride Celebration is "Be yourself, change the world," and it's hard to imagine anyone who's achieved that goal more famously than Sir Ian McKellen. As Celebrity Grand Marshal of Pride '02, the famed actor, gay activist and Knight of the Realm is delighted to return to San Francisco, the place where he first made the decision to come out as a gay man.

"I'm very pleased to have been asked to do this," said Sir Ian in a recent interview. "To be invited to San Francisco, where so much of this started, is really a privilege."

While visiting San Francisco in 1988, McKellen discussed the idea of coming out with friends Armistead Maupin and Terry Anderson, and they encouraged him to do it. "Coming out is a long process, and when someone is in the public eye, they don't complete the journey until they've talked to the press about it."

A key catalyst to his decision was an act of

British Parliament called Section 28, prohibiting any discussion (thought to be "promotion") of homosexuality in public schools. The actor joined the campaign to fight the law, and became a founding member of Stonewall UK, a gay and lesbian rights organization.

"It was an idea whose time had resoundingly arrived," he said. Since the early days of Stonewall UK, Sir Ian has seen a major shift in anti-gay sentiment. "Each time there's a gay issue in front of Parliament, the media now rallies to the cause for equality."

While many actors fear that coming out will destroy their careers, McKellen's experience was quite the opposite. In 1990, he was made a Knight of the British Empire for services to the performing arts.

"It's been said that in the past they didn't like to knight openly gay people (novelist Angus Wilson was the first), and ironically I

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Titan Media director Bruce Cam at work up on the roof during a recent photo shoot.



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FRIENDLY FIRE

by John F. Karr

Adjusted to the entrance of Titan Media, I see a door with a familiar pictogram, and above it the word, Men. That sign's on the wrong door, I think. The men are all at Titan.

I had good reason to think that, having been immersed for over a week in an overwhelming Titan retrospective. The company has just finished re-issuing under their own Titanmen.com logo their entire back catalogue, concluding with four classic titles of *The Bruce Cam Collection*, in Director's Expanded Edits, and each with savory Bonus content. Watching the movies in succession made me appreciate anew the Titan brand of sexual performance and technical proficiency that are industry standard-bearers. What

I hadn't previously realized was how acutely aware of its product the company was. There's a liberating philosophy behind Titan's sexual representations that heightens its effectiveness, and which makes it, truly, porn for a new century.

I watched the moody *Desert Train*, its heatedly romantic sex played out in rugged terrain. And *Island Guardian*, its impassioned jiz-jousts with romancers like Brad Michaels and Adrian Marquez bedded in tropical splendor, along with Will Clark visibly menaced as York Powers grinds him into the mud. Even more lush is *Eruption*, filmed on the big island of Hawaii, with men like Eduardo and Dean Coulter throwing themselves

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Yoko Ono and John Lennon, *WAR IS OVER! IF YOU WANT IT*, 1969, installed in Times Square, New York.

by Roberto Friedman
and Buster Brown

Can we just get something off our chests right at the top? What is this thing with the Frameline Fest audiences booing this year's festival trailer? We were settling into the *Foreign Tongues* matinee at the Castro Theatre the other day when this happened, and we were shocked — shocked! — at the rampant small-mindedness.

OK, the backwards-flowing waterfall isn't funny lady **Marga Gomez** as **Ricky Ricardo**, or any of the other classic trailers from years past, but it's no less an artist's own aesthetic vision. Isn't going to a film festival all about opening yourself up to new experiences, maybe unexpected things? Anyway, what is more like going up Niagara Falls backwards than living in SF? (we write, bundled in our parkas in

the stiff summer wind.)

That's why the "Trailer Liberation" — created video anonymously popped into projection before *Queens Don't Lie* last Wednesday was so mysterious. **Jimi Hendrix's** anthem came to a screeching halt (you could hear the big ol' needle scratch), and the soundtrack was suddenly **Cris Williamson's** "Waterfall," with the invitation to sing along! Is there a vengeful womyn's music goddess afoot?

Out There is certainly not against guerrilla filmmaking or getting the ol' switcheroo, but Bay Area graphic artists

Out There

Venezky and **Appetite Engineers'** trailer seems a poor choice of target. We find the design of this year's festival whimsical, unfussy and typographical, rather an unusual combination. Maybe the latest stir is just more of that good old-fashioned SF bratty behavior that passes for activism, but is really just acting-outism. Welcome back to San Francisco, filmmakers and gay tourists!

OK Yoko

Yes, **Yoko Ono**, the first American retrospective of the artist's groundbreaking work, is the Big Art Wow at SFMOMA this summer (through Sept. 8). Even if you don't think you have an interest in conceptual art, you will when you see the show. Ono's avant-garde contribution would be worthy of art fame even had she never married that guy from Liverpool!

At her packed-house press conference in SFMOMA's Schwab Room, Ono said that her ride from the airport had serendipitously passed the revived *Ono/Lennon* billboard project from 1969, *War Is Over! If You*

Want It, newly installed at New Montgomery and Howard Streets, which will remain on view for at least a month. Seems like now is rather a good time to give peace a chance. Somewhat optimistically, Ono said, "I think the human race is going to survive."

Did she have any instructions for journalists? "They're like kids," Ono said knowingly. "You tell them one thing, and they do the other."

Advice for living in these depressing times? "Do one thing a day to make your heart dance. Or if you can't do that, make someone else's heart dance."

It's a riot

Who says that the opera world is staid? Berkeley Opera wraps up its season with *The Riot Grrrl on Mars*, **David Scott Marley's** adaptation of **Rossini's** *Italian Girl in Algiers*. Instead of **Algiers**, the *Riot Grrrl* (**Sonia Gariaeff**, pictured, alternating with **Marie**



Sonia Gariaeff as *Riot Grrl*

Bafus) goes to the red planet in search of her boyfriend, fellow punk rocker **Mosquito** (**Andrew Morgan/Stephen Rumpf**), who's been abducted by a UFO. July 19-August 4 at the **Julia Morgan Theater**, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. www.berkeleyopera.com

So you think opera is not multicultural? SF Opera's summer season, which was heavy on the standard repertoire, offered a Spanish passion play written by a Frenchman; a Japanese cautionary tale from an Italian; and the story of Rome, care of a German abroad in England. Toss in the Russian fest across Grove St., and that's a spicy goulash!

People who need people

We guess it's a sign of the times that one of the hunks on display

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Yoko Ono, *Fly LP*, Apple Records album cover, 1971

TELEVISION

Quite a Hay ride

PBS illuminates the life of Harry Hay

by Robert Julian

Political activism wears different hats at different times. What was effective in 1950 is not necessarily relevant to activism in 2002. But San Francisco's Harry Hay, now 90 years old, is something of an activist for all seasons. His life eloquently unfolds in the PBS documentary, *Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay*, debuting tomorrow night on KQED (channel 9).

At one point in the documentary, Hay is shown speaking to a gathering at A Different Light bookstore, and he asks the crowd if they know when the word "homosexual" first appeared in Webster's dictionary. In response to the silence, Hay volunteers that it did not appear before 1936. But Hay was born in 1912, and long before the word appeared in Webster's, Hay was aware of his sexual attraction to men. As a young man, he was repelled by contact sports, but he found another way to place himself in close proximity to other men: Hay joined the Armed Forces.

After leaving military service, Hay relocated to Los Angeles and began his lifelong quest to understand who he was, what made him the way he was, and why he was here. Producer/director Eric Slade nicely frames Hay's life story as a quest for personal freedom and social equality. Hay's Los Angeles years involved a long-term relationship with actor Will Geer, who would many years later become famous as Grandpa Walton on the successful television series *The Waltons*. In the 1930s, Hay also became a Marxist, a labor activist, and a member of the Communist Party, only to find that Communism was no more accepting of homosexuality than other political ideologies. He would soon marry a woman, father two children, and finally divorce his wife because of his avowed homosexuality.

After World War II, Hay and a small group of gay men established the Mattachine Society, the first organization devoted to obtaining equal rights for homosex-



Early and recent photos of lifelong gay liberationist Harry Hay.

uals. It was a secret society that Hay organized in a fashion he understood from his work as a Communist. There were individual "cells" to the organization, each with a specific task, and members of one cell did not know members of the other, in order to protect the organization from exposure and infiltration. But as the Mattachine Society grew in size, with chapters all across the nation, it became more vocal and more visible. During the McCarthy era, Hay was booted out of the organization he founded because of his Communist affiliation.

Faerie flowering

With the advent of the Gay Liberation movement in the early 1970s, the Mattachine Society became less visible, and it ceased to exist entirely in the early '80s. But Harry Hay continued his life of activism, forming an emotional and political bond with the work of the Radical Faerie movement. He lives now in San Francisco with John Burnside, his partner of 40 years.

Eric Slade's illumination of Hay's life is engrossing and fast-paced. *Hope Along the Wind* hits all the markers that distinguish Hay's personal journey, with few omissions. But one amusing oversight is worth noting. One of the original Mattachine Society

members was Rudi Gernrich, a German-born fashion designer. In the late 1960s, almost 20 years after his Mattachine Society beginnings, Gernrich would become internationally renowned as the creator of the topless bathing suit. The liberation of women's breasts and the life of Harry Hay may have no particular correlation, but it is interesting to note how the choice for freedom and equality often leads one to unexpected places. ▼

Hope Along the Wind airs at 9 p.m. Friday, June 28 on KQED, Channel 9.

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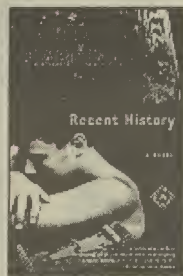
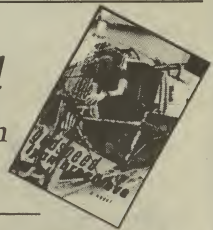
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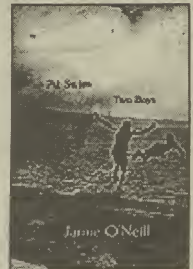
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Out There

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in *People* magazine's "Top 50 Bachelors" feature (June 24 issue) is an openly gay man. Singer/actor **Matt Zarley** (33, 5'9", lives in LA) began his career at age 12, when he shot a TV commercial with **Tony the Tiger**. His current gig is as the cast's "lonely white guy" in the Vegas **Stevie Wonder** tribute *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*. Zarley has an unfortunate tendency to describe potential partners in gender-neutral terms ("I'm looking for somebody I can trust"), but even if his status weren't described as "single and gay," here's the real tip-off: his friend, an actress named **Jolie Jenkins**, is quoted as saying, "He is a warm and sensitive guy, and he knows what hair products to use."

Fare play

Could the *Chronicle's* **Night Cabbie** really be so clueless that he didn't know the fare he was picking up was none other than veteran SF drag queen **Bambi Lake**? OT guesses he could! From

the Cabbie's column: "I glance at her and immediately see it's a man in drag. She's wearing vintage clothing with a hat that still has the price tag. She gets in, and at once I see that her outfit is mismatched: a fur coat, the '40s hat, and a nightie of some length. And of course, high heels."

When the Cabbie tells Lake the price tag looks silly, she replies, "Those f—rimming retailers are supposed to do their job and remove these things!" F—rimming?

Bambi is evidently a gal on the go these days, to places besides the lock-up. When the Cabbie picks her up, she's on her way to LA, and wants to know which airline has the best standby. We'll leave them to each other.

But as long as the Cabbie has a ride to the airport, here's a tip on travel etiquette for fellow travelers: If you're a fine, strapping homosexual with big, powerful muscles, and your tote is about the size of your gym bag, then don't, please don't trundle it behind you through the airport on little wheelies. Here's a thought: lift it up, and carry it in your good strong arm! Imagine that you're at the gym, only everyone is dressed. ▼

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— Richard Labonte, *Book Marks*, April 2002

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— Jason Dorn, *SF Weekly*

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Straight edge

'Sleeping with Straight Men' at Rhino

by Richard Dodds



Jared Scott, Aaron Wimmer, Sister Roma in *Sleeping with Straight Men*

For Stanley, a gay guy living with his mom in a trailer park, catching a glimpse of Kate Jackson at a Woolworth's had been his high point. But now he's having an experience that he reports to friends and family back home is "100 times better" than his sighting of a Charlie's Angel.

Stanley, the dizzily aggressive protagonist of Ronnie Larsen's *Sleeping with Straight Men*, has snared himself an appearance on one of those Ricki-Sally-Jerry-Jenny-Maury dirty-linen shows. Not only thrilled to be able to be his fabulous self on television, he gets to confess his passion to Lee, an unsuspecting straight waiter who once gave him a complimentary salad. Stanley is convinced that Lee will drop his overriding preference for girls at least long enough to let him suck his dick. That's what Stanley likes: straight guys who wobble after a few beers. Ah, but there is danger when they sober up.

Sleeping with Straight Men, having its premiere in the Theatre Rhino Studio, is another successful step by Larsen to reach beyond the reputation of his *Making Porn et al.* oeuvre. The first step came with *A Few Gay Men* last year, and this new play reinforces the developing notion that Larsen is a writer and director to be reckoned with.

What distinguishes this production is the real-life familiarity of the characters' behavior, even as their circumstances approach burlesque. In addition to his clever way with words, Larsen is a director with an eye for nuance, as well as choreographed episodes, and his jokes often find a second wave of laughter through their staging.

Where the play does run into trouble is in its transition from comedy to an inappropriate *Laramie Project*-type pathos. A brief discussion of gay self-loathing is also introduced and abandoned. The play doesn't go deep enough to justify these changes in tone, and a return to the callousness of the talk-show presenters who open the play would make more sense than the teary finale offered.

Ready to explode

While Mink Stole, Dan Renzi, and Sister Roma share top billing, the play really belongs to Jared Scott and Aaron Wimmer as Stanley and Lee, characters based on two actual guests on a "secret admirer" episode of *The Jenny Jones Show*. Scott (also the play's pro-

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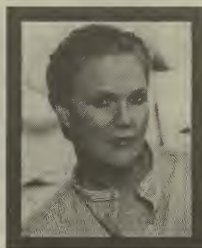
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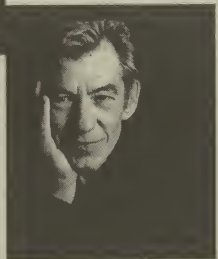
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Critics collect in Chicago

American Theatre Critics Association coming to San Francisco in 2004

by Richard Dodds

San Francisco sometimes calls itself the city that knows how. But that particular label isn't sticking so well right now. Our increasingly disengaged mayor and our sometimes unfathomable supervisors should book a flight to Chicago. Here is a city that seems genuinely interested in improving the quality of life of both those who live there and those who visit it.

But since I am a theater columnist, and not an urban reporter, let me just note that theatergoing is enhanced when downtown streets are free of rubbish, panhandlers are not endemic, bodies are not sprawled on sidewalks, and an effective transit system makes access to neighborhood venues a breeze even for a Chicago neophyte. Chicago has long been famous for its vibrant theater scene, and the city itself, led by out theater-lover Mayor Daley, is now one of its biggest boosters.

These are a few of the impressions left by a week in Chicago at the annual conference of the American Theatre Critics Association. Many of the same 70 or so theater critics in attendance will get to make their own comparisons when ATCA travels to San Francisco for its 2004 conference. The group enthusiastically accepted a conference pitch made by San

Francisco critics Chad Jones, Erin Blackwell, and myself, who will be among those working with *Chronicle* critic and conference chairman Rob Hurwitt. The hope is that San Francisco and its theaters will be shiningly showcased.

Back in Chicago, the city's Department of Cultural Affairs, the League of Chicago Theaters, and the Chicago critics who organized the event didn't have to boast too much to convince the attendees of the city's cultural commitment. This is a city where a major Shakespearean theater shares space with a Ferris wheel and a music stage where a Grateful Dead tribute band was playing. It's called Navy Pier, and it's something like Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf, except for that Shakespearean theater.

The Tempest was on view during the critics' visit, and the Shakespeare Chicago Company made ample use of its new auditorium's ability to accommodate special effects. It was one of eight Chicago stage offerings seen during the six-day conference that included the requisite panels and meetings during the day.

Actually, at least 24 admired theater companies were represented. But because of the abundance of esteemed theaters, 12 of the smaller companies were seen in a showcase evening put together for an audience of ATCA members and Chicago theater people invited by the League of Chicago The-



The Tempest in Chicago.

atres. Among the big houses visited were the Goodman, Steppenwolf, and Wisdom Bridge theaters.

All three have won regional theater Tony Awards, a coveted prize that has been awarded since 1976 on the recommendation of the American Theatre Critics Association. Hence, ATCA usually finds its presence welcomed in cities with strong regional theaters, and there is understandable correlation between conference cities and subsequent Tony Awards.

Eye on the Prize

The Bay Area also has three Tony-winning theater companies: ACT (1979), San Francisco Mime Troupe (1987), and Berkeley Rep (1997). Both ACT and the Mime Troupe are eligible for a second Tony (at least 10 years must pass between awards), and that may

help to spur hospitality when the critics arrive in 2004.

Back in Chicago, the best production seen was not at one of the Big 3 theaters but at the smallest Court Theatre, where an old warhorse has been slimmed down and perked up. Remarkably, *My Fair Lady* comes alive again in this two-piano, small-cast production that zips along and finds again the humor in the piece. A case where less is more — much more.

At Steppenwolf, famous as the home of such theatrical provocateurs as David Mamet, John Malkovich, Gary Sinise, and Terry

Kinney, the tone has become increasingly middle-of-the-road. That certainly was the case with its gently amusing production of *The Royal Family*, the George Kaufman-Edna Furber 1927 comic chestnut about a theatrical family not unlike the Barrymores.

The Goodman Theatre, in its fancy new digs in the Loop, is currently offering the world premiere of a modern opera with music by Philip Glass and staging by Mary Zimmerman (*Metamorphoses*).

The 90-minute *Galileo Galilei* tells the story of the 17th-century as-

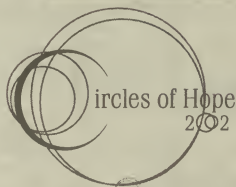
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THEATRE

Beyond shock value

Berkeley Repertory's revived 'Cloud 9'

by Richard Dodds

Getting to Berkeley Rep's *Cloud 9* a week late gave me a chance to read the reviews before sitting down to write one more. Director Tony Taccone's production was generally appreciated, but the play itself conjured up a curious complaint: that it is no longer shocking. My question then is, shocking to whom?

Presumably not to those worldly-wise critics who wrote about their nirvana-like reactions to the 1981 off-Broadway production that introduced English playwright Caryl Churchill to Ameri-

more than 20 years after its debut. After all, we were already living in officially "liberated" times in 1981, and the notion that so many more walls have been knocked down since then is just foolish.

A doll house

Churchill's intriguing format is to set the first act in colonial Africa of 100 years ago, where a tradition-bound representative of Her Majesty is trying to keep his family from straying from their tightly defined roles. That proves a bit a problem, since his son likes to play with dolls — and with his ambisexual "Uncle" Harry. Other complications include a governess

and most of the characters themselves return, but having aged only 25 years despite the 100-year interlude. The performances don't seem quite so sharp in the second act, which is more subdued and introspective despite some moments of high comedy. Still, this is a quality affair that delivers on Churchill's strongest message.

The first-act characters may wobble in their commitment to the preordained roles society has provided for them, but at least they have a map to follow. In the second act, these characters are on their own, having to chart their own courses from day to day. It is a message of freedom, and the challenges of knowing what to do with it when it is achieved. ▼

Cloud 9 will run at Berkeley Rep through July 28. Tickets are \$42-\$54. Call (510) 647-2949.



Fred Sullivan Jr. and Timothy Crowe in Berkeley Rep's *Cloud 9*.

ca. Did they then think those sitting around them were clutching at their bosoms at the mentions of masturbation and gay sex? Those who might have been shocked in 1980 aren't likely those who found their way to a theater in Greenwich Village.

But a largely older audience taking advantage of Berkeley Rep's early Wednesday curtain did occasionally fall into silences that, if not stemming from shock, at least came from surprise at the twists in Churchill's multi-generational look at sex, gender, and politics, both in the age of Victoria and of Thatcher.

Shock is one of those subjective qualities, so blanket statements make little sense. Besides, the implication of those reviews is that shock is an asset, and its absence is to be rued, at least in the case of *Cloud 9*. But Churchill is too smart a writer to pin a play on something as ephemeral as shock.

Churchill does want to get audiences thinking outside the boxes that usually define gender roles, and her entertaining, thoughtful exploration retains a sharp edge

with a burning desire for the corseted lady of the house, and an independently-minded woman explorer with a strong libido.

Unlike the more realistic second act, which takes place in 1980 London, the first act paints its characters in broad strokes that find considerable humor in their plights. Adding to the sense of burlesque is Churchill's call for the dutiful wife to be played by a man, and the sissy son by a woman.

As the tightly corseted Betty, who lives only to serve her man, Danny Scheie is quite wonderful at finding humanity in a comically dithering portrayal. Timothy Crowe plays the man she serves with bombastic relish, and there are more good performances from Angela Brazil as their doll-hugging son, Cynthia Strickland as Betty's pleasure-deprived mother, Matthew Boston as a sinister native servant, Stacy Ross as both the governess and the woman explorer, and Fred Sullivan Jr. as Harry, the sexually eager friend of the family.

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John Sayles in the sunshine

The filmmaker on 'Lianna' and his latest

by David Lamble

Filmmaker John Sayles has always been a man who's done precisely what he's wanted to do, nothing more and nothing less. He was raised in the shadow of the General Electric empire around Schenectady, New York, to schoolteacher parents who allowed Sayles to live his own hours (dictated by his lifetime insomnia, and addiction to Diet Coke and late-night TV-movies, his only film school) and choose his religious orientation (Sayles once described himself as a "Catholic atheist.") In the past two decades, having written, directed and edited 13 films his own way (and partly on his own dime), Sayles has helped invent whole new movie genres with *Brother from Another Planet* (the first black-man-from-outer-space feature) and *Lianna* (the 1983 tale of a young woman breaking out of a stale marriage and coming out as a lesbian.) But he insists that his inspiration always arises from something in the real world, "that I don't see on the screen, and it may be black-and-white relations, it might be there's all these gay people in the world."

"There were a number of cases, at the time I was writing *Lianna*, where a woman had been married, had children, got divorced, got custody of the children, and then started living with another woman and had the custody of

those children taken away by a court saying, 'It's just against community standards, you're no longer a good mother.'"

"In 1983, there just weren't any movies where gay people were just people and weren't there just for some kind of little wry comment," says Sayles. "The year *Lianna* came out there were two other gay films, *Making Love* and *Personal Best*, all released kind of accidentally at the same time. Today I probably wouldn't have made *Lianna* the same way, because I wouldn't have felt that there's that vacuum up on the screen."

Sayles adds that his outsider status in *Lianna*'s world was an asset rather than a limitation. "As a newcomer, she's somebody who's been living as straight and thinking of herself as straight for such a long time, and as a straight man I felt that was as far as I could get into that world."

He's still distressed at cinema segregation, "that not much of what is considered queer cinema gets much of a viewing by the mainstream audience, except on television, where things have loosened up quite a bit and there are a lot more gay characters than we see in [big] movies."

Long horizon

Sayles has recently created films that purport to tell the actual history of ordinary Americans in larger-than-life parts of the country: Texas (the 1996 critically

acclaimed *Lone Star*, Sayles' attempt to tell what John Wayne didn't choose to tell behind the myth of the Alamo), *Limbo* (Alaska used as a canvas for the last stop on the American Dream), and his latest release, *Sunshine State* (why Americans are drawn to large bodies of water). "There's something about just being able to look at the horizon and say, 'If I wanted to, I could get on a boat and leave.'"

Sayles admits to having a horrified fascination with arcane bits of Americana which describe all-too-accurately hidden parts of the national psyche. "When we were finishing up *Lone Star*, I read this article about when they discovered the last flock of passenger pigeons, around 1900. They actually wrote articles in the newspapers that said, 'There's a party going out to shoot them, and if you want to be part of this historic event, you, too, can kill one of the last passenger pigeons.'"

In *Sunshine State*, Mary Steenburgen's character says, "People hate history — mass murder, rape and slavery." "Her colleague, who's also a public relations guy, says, 'Oh, no, you've got all this great stuff — Indians, plantations, pirates! Just give it the Disney touch, and people will eat it up. All you need is a hook.'"

Sayles concedes that part of the inspiration for *Sunshine State*'s account of a community of black characters trying to hang onto



Edie Falco as Marly Temple with director John Sayles in *Sunshine State*.

some choice beachfront property arose from his reading a series of stories featuring an African-American gumshoe, by "Walter Mosely, the guy who did *Devil With a Blue Dress*. The [character] is not officially a detective, he takes care of things for people, but he's also involved in real estate, and after reading a couple of them I realized, Oh, this is the story of

postwar Watts, this is what happened to a formerly hopeful black community when bigger forces decided that land is a little too valuable to let these black working people just sit there and have nice little homes. 'We could make some money on this.'"

Sunshine State opens Friday.

Do not pass Cho

'Notorious C.H.O.' coming

by David Lamble

Margaret Cho is in the next room as I enter her suite at the Nikko, my eyes quickly scanning the scene looking for a racy paperback, a naughty magazine, a stash of Marshall Mathers albums, or signs that someone has been attempting to eat the furniture. Her latest film, *Notorious C.H.O.*, contains hilarious references to eating disorders that immediately connect her to many of us whose habits are less than aesthetic or healthy. Alas, all my snooping uncovers is one of those views of downtown that makes San Francisco appear like a hilly Toledo, Ohio, and an unread copy of the *Chronicle*, still wrapped in plastic, with the rubber band showing no signs of forced entry.

If she wanted to, Margaret Cho could probably view key landmarks of her early life in this city from the upper floors of the Nikko: the public television station that aired the comedy show which helped feed her dreams of a career in standup; the comedy club that gave her a forum to air teenage anxieties and the beginnings of her adult act; and the Polk Street used bookstore run by her Korean-born parents that stocked every imaginable form of gay literature.

"I was really a fan of *Comedy Tonight*, a locally produced show on KQED which featured standup comics like Whoopi Goldberg," Cho says. "I was 10 at the time, and I really felt that that was what I wanted to do with my life."

Cho's first break came at the Other Cafe in Cole Valley, where at 16 she got to spin her act on the same stage as the *Saturday Night Live*-bound Dana Carvey. "I would talk about school, about my parents, teenage stuff, that's all I knew. I was such an unusual person in the comedy scene, my



Cho connects with the audience.

uniqueness was an advantage."

From the beginning, sex was central to her act. "It's something that we all have in common, and something that a lot of us don't really get." Of course, the patron saint of all comedians who connect about sex is Lenny Bruce. "He was such an exceptional character, and such a tragic figure. What he was about was valuing honesty above everything else, and realizing that that connection with an audience is the most valuable thing, beyond laughter. He was all about this truth-telling and being a social critic, and really creating change from a very interesting place, from a nightclub. His ideas at the time were so incredibly dangerous because he was questioning authority. The fact that he loved being arrested, loved that controversy, it was just really cool."

Meating men

Cho's Korean parents were also cultural workers, their used bookstore supplying erotically charged reading for the Polk Gulch district in the '70s. Young Margaret worked at the store and absorbed

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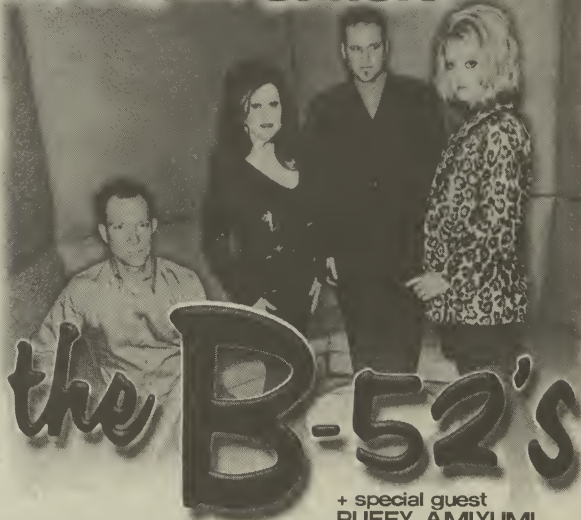
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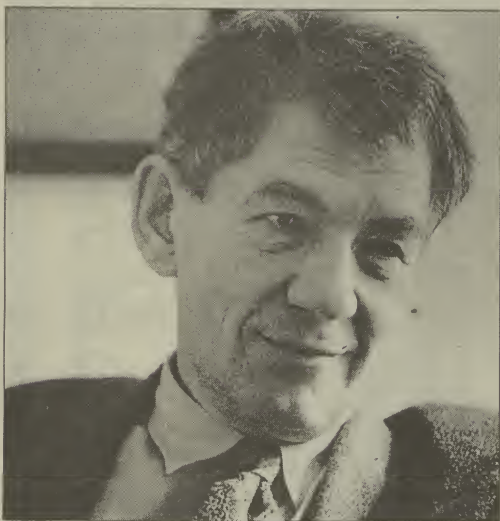
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Sir Ian in 1996, after decades of distinguished film and TV roles.

Ian McKellen

◀ Arts cover

was knighted by Mrs. Thatcher, with whom I'd been in public debate. Perhaps her people thought, 'Oh, he's just an English eccentric.'

But the good knight notes that his status makes certain doors open more easily for him when he's dealing with Parliament. "It implies that if it's okay for Thatcher and the Queen to knight me, then perhaps what I'm saying should be taken seriously."

Keep it up

Despite recent strides in gay and lesbian rights, McKellen is constantly reminded of the need to keep up the fight. "I was talking to a guy in a New York club, a sturdy, attractive man who'd been in the military, but his mother had disowned him because he was gay. He looked like he could take on the world, but deep inside he was infected by homophobia."

"We have to keep on talking and talking about it until people get so bored with it that they just give up discriminating against gays."

After four decades of distinguished stage, film and television roles, McKellen became an inter-

McKellen as Gandalf in *Lord of the Rings*: "We all held each other's hands."

nationally recognized star in the 1996 film version of *Richard III*, which he also co-wrote and co-produced.

His film career heated up in 1998, when he played an ex-Nazi commander in *Apt Pupil*, and earned a Best Actor Oscar nomination portraying gay film director James Whale in the poignant and haunting *Gods and Monsters*.

"It was a part I couldn't help playing," McKellen says of his *Gods and Monsters* role, which had many parallels to his own life. "Whale was an English theatre actor/designer who came to work in Hollywood by accident; there was the openly gay connection which I could easily sympathize with; and he also came to London from the Midlands, like me."

If McKellen's film career gathered steam in the '90s, it positively exploded with the new millennium. He became a comic-book icon — and action figure — as the nefarious Magneto in *X-Men*. He's currently filming *X-Men 2* in Vancouver.

Hobbit bonding

While many actors have had adventures while filming on location, Sir Ian returned from the 15-month New Zealand shoot of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy with a massive following of new fans (including six-year-olds); his face on a New Zealand stamp; a new boyfriend — and a tattoo.

"The tattoo was the idea of the hobbits, who were great mates, and all nine of us [in the Fellowship] had it done, except for John Rhys-Davies," he said. "The tattoo

says 'nine' in elvish. We all went and held each other's hands in the tattoo parlor. Mine is on my upper right arm, but others had them put in more delicate places."

Sir Ian describes the experience of playing Gandalf the wizard, which earned him a second Oscar nomination, as life-changing. "It's pretty overwhelming to be in a film that's such a success that you become part of popular culture without really intending to," he said.

While in New Zealand, McKellen met his boyfriend Nick, a student and model who impressed the Oscar night paparazzi. "We were holding hands at the Oscars, which some people saw as a strike for freedom, but it wasn't really planned," said McKellen.

The relationship has helped focus the actor's priorities: "Work has become less central to my life than friendships and my relationships with people. It's extremely satisfying to be involved with the minds of great writers, but the freedom to be yourself is an absolute right that's still denied in so many places."

By being himself, Sir Ian McKellen is indeed changing the world. ▼

Sir Ian will appear with Sharon Gless, the SF Gay Men's Chorus and the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF in the concert *You're a Grand Old F(!!)ag on Friday, June 28 at 7 & 9 p.m. at Everett Middle School, Church & 16th St. Tickets are \$20. Call (415) 865-3650.*

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Backstage

◀ page 37

tronomer in reverse, using Glass' hard-to-grasp music and Zimmerman's visual imagination. A risky but not entirely rewarding enterprise.

Even the little time for sight-seeing had a theatrical component. Several dozen of the critics headed to nearby Wisconsin for a preview tour of Ten Chimneys, the longtime summer home of stage greats Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. Saved from demolition by a concerned individual, it is now owned by a foundation that plans to open it to public tours next year.

This odd estate, with every tchotchke untouched since the death of Fontanne in 1996, had among its frequent visitors Noel Coward, Helen Hayes, and Carol Channing. Hardly luxurious, each room in the rambling main house looks like a little stage set that photographs show remained unchanged from the 1930s to the '90s. The reverent docents, who speak of Alfred and Lynn in saintly terms, make no mention of a

"lavender marriage."

Chicago's main gay theater, Bailiwick Repertory, was offering a taste of San Francisco with Scott Capurro's *Fucking Our Fathers*. Written by and co-starring the San Francisco actor-comedian-author, and directed by SF's own Danny Scheie, it lightly explores that notion of the "daddy" in gay society. There are plenty of funny lines, and flashes of nudity when the two actors aren't wearing oversized diapers, but a little more depth would make the show considerably more satisfying.

SF's gay theater should definitely be a part of the 2004 conference, either with visits to Theater Rhino or New Conservatory, depending on what is on their stages, or at least in a panel discussion with a colorful cast of characters. However the final schedule emerges (and in Chicago there were inevitable highs and lows among the offerings), it is the city as much as its theaters that is being judged. Chicago looks like a city that's got its act together. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached
BARstage@aol.com.

OPERA

Valley girl rules

Cleopatra in SF Opera's 'Giulio Cesare'

by Stephanie von Buchau

The Lotfi Mansouri era at San Francisco Opera is officially over. All together, it wasn't as bad as the last season made it seem. Every time Mansouri insulted the intelligence of opera-lovers with misguided attempts to be "accessible," he also tried to remember that opera is still about singing and vocal acting.

The last two productions of his regime, *Madama Butterfly* and *Giulio Cesare*, offered proof positive of that maxim. Miriam Gauci was one of the most effective Cio-Cio-Sans I've ever heard, while Handel's opera provided the same euphoria as the previous season's *Semele*, another Mansouri coup. *Giulio Cesare* featured a strong supporting cast, a lively and engaging conductor, and five festival-quality principal singers, of whom three probably sang the music better than it has been heard since the opera's 1724 premiere.

Frankly, I doubt if Handel ever heard a soprano like Ruth Ann Swenson. I don't always care for her in mopey roles — Juliette, Elvira, Lucia — but when she can turn on equal parts of sunny charm, insinuating but not vulgar sexuality and classic pathos, she is simply unbeatable. And that's before we've said a word about her stunning vocalism. If all Swenson did was warble prettily, she'd be super, yet it seems that the shallower the character, the more determined she is to bring it to life. She's easily the best Manon I've heard, and they don't come any shallower than Manon. Her vain, demanding Semele was hilarious, and her Cleopatra is simply magnificent.

True, Handel gives her plenty to work with, including a string of one-emotion arias that add up to a fascinating character. Starting with the naughty teasing of her bisexual, bloodthirsty brother Tolomeo (more on him in a minute), continuing with the ravishing "V'adoro pupille" in the masque employed to snare Caesar (the visibly salivating David Daniels), through the tragic "Piangerò" when she thinks her lover may be dead, to the glittering "Da tempeste" when all is well, Swenson supplied all the legato, coloratura, trills, ornaments, high notes, pathos, erotic promise and pure musicality that Handel or anyone else could have wished for. When a backdrop misbehaved during "Da tempeste," Swenson boldly used the moment to heighten her joyous hysteria, flashing her eyes at the audience as if to warn, "You ain't heard nothing yet!"

And we hadn't. After three-and-a-half hours of dazzling solos, Caesar and Cleopatra finally sing a duet; it is as sensually gorgeous as the similar soprano-alto castrato duets in Monteverdi's *Coronation of Poppea* and Cavalli's *La Calisto*. I'm starting to sound like a starstruck teen about David Daniels, but not since Franco Corelli (Daniels' operatic hero) has there been a male opera singer who looked that good, sounded that splendid, had "Sex Appeal" as his middle name, and was 110 percent invested in the role's emotions and expression. Yes, Domingo and Pavarotti have many of those traits, but not all of them.

Messa di voce

The fact that Daniels is a coun-

tertenor and openly gay makes some assume he is a camp act (as the other paper I work for put it, "sings like a girl"). Yet I'd rather see and hear him making operatic love to Swenson in this music than any other singer I can think of. Opera, after all, is fantasy, so when an artist comes along whose singing is so accomplished — the technique is jaw-dropping; he never seems to take a breath — and yet so focused on projecting the character's feelings and emotions, you wouldn't mind if he were short and ugly. But he's not. Listening to Daniels' plangent tones (and amazing *messa di voce*) when Caesar is shipwrecked, to those furious runs and divisions when he is angered by Pompey's death or to the melting blend with Cleopatra in the duet, is to experience an all-time operatic high.

The third member of this exalted crew was Bejun Mehta (Tolomeo). The cousin of conductor Zubin was a child soprano of some note, gave up singing for an-

other career, but then, inspired by Daniels' example, returned to the stage as a countertenor. He's a nimble stage personality, playing the androgynous, silly aspirant to the Egyptian throne with wicked, campy humor. (Director John Copley gave him a pair of bald, bodybuilding catamites as companions; their slitherings made the audience giggle nervously. It's okay, folks, they are supposed to be funny.) Mehta's voice, if anything, is more powerful than Daniels', especially in the upper register, though it was impossible to tell from his one-dimensional music (some of it cut) if he owns anywhere near the colors and dynamic contrasts in Daniels' arsenal.

Ruxandra Donose and Felicity Palmer responded well to the noble, repetitive sentiments of the vengeful Sesto and his grieving mother, Cornelia, but I couldn't help wondering if the latter wouldn't have seemed less lugubrious with Lorraine Hunt Lieberson in the part. McGegan's light-hand-



David Daniels (Cesare) and Ruth Ann Swenson (Cleopatra) at SF Opera.

ed accompaniments were supportive of the singers, and his playing of the harpsichord during the recits was imaginative, if slightly recessive in this huge opera house.

The tired Copley production (minimal set pieces by John Pascoe; sumptuous costumes by Michael Stennett) looked fresh only when Swenson was showing

off her *zaftig* figure in multiple, colorful changes of dress. One couldn't help wishing that the production team, having taken a look at Daniels' linebacker physique, had dumped the red velvet, Lord Faunteroy pants suits and Dust-a-Mop wig, and just let him look natural, like Russell Crowe in *Gladiator*. ▼

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Ghost world

by Glen Helfand

Lee & Elaine by Ann Rower; Serpent's Tail/High Risk, \$14

Green River Cemetery in East Hampton is a rather glamorous graveyard. It's filled with mid-century art-world stars: Jackson Pollock, Frank O'Hara, Ad Reinhardt, and Stuart Davis among them. But in this deceptively kooky novel, it's the women of the Abstract Expressionist movement Lee Krasner and Elaine de Kooning, each with strong, mythic links to their better-known husbands, whose grave markers loom large in the mind of the middle-aged narrator. While on a writing getaway in an off-season rental house, she finds inspiration, distraction, and creative and personal catalyst while wandering the well-tended plots.

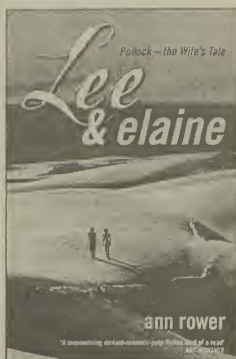
"I'd looked for this cemetery for years, but I'd never had any luck in finding it," the unnamed narrator admits early on. She may have found more than she was bargaining for. The tombstones become touchstones, and they appear immediately here. The book begins with a reference to Hannah Wilke, whose obituary the narrator encounters while unpacking vodka from her grocery bag. Wilke was an artist a couple of generations younger than Lee and Elaine, who dealt with her own body (and according to this book had an ill-fated affair with Claes Oldenburg) and created vaginal-shaped objects out of chewed

bubble-gum. She's also a childhood friend of the narrator, who begins a serious re-evaluation of art, life, feminism and love in this chilly but beautiful land of second homes.

Just about everything in this book has veiled meaning. The work retreat is something of a ruse for the narrator, who teaches creative writing at a Manhattan art college. She's really using it as a place to switch her sexual orientation while in the midst of a 22-year relationship with a man. She's anxiously anticipating a visit from a flirtatious female student, a butch woman named Iris, who invites herself over for the weekend to take some suicide-of-Virginia-Woolf-inspired photographs. (Another classic death reference.) It's a comic, anxiety-ridden affair punctuated by a chapter in which bumbled S&M and unexpected visitors turn into laugh-out-loud screwball comedy. In this scene, by far the most vivid and entertaining in the novel, Rower shows off her gift for being able to mix anxiety, power dynamics and comedy into a seamless, page-turning whole.

Grave concerns

The narrator uses the grave markers to drive the book she's working on—she wonders if Lee and Elaine may have been lesbian lovers. That fantasy's fueled by childhood memories, art books and anecdotal research done through interviews with aging artists, queeny curators, and socialites, allowing an art-world



Nancy Drew mystery to seep in from around the edges. The pair of artists even return as kibitzing ghost girlfriends. One might be tempted to peg this piquantly poignant tale as a Hampton's edition of *Six Feet Under*, but while *Lee & Elaine* mixes mortuary wit and major neuroses with its references to loss, the thrust of the nar-

rative is personal change and the challenge of creative vocations. The novel incorporates the writer's block-inflected attempt of the narrator aiming to fashion a book, and the process of "research" is affected by numerous life-changing digressions along the way—most notably the emotionally irresponsible ways the narrator deals with her lovers, past and present.

The second section of the book has a calmer, more subdued tone than the psychologically frenetic first, reflecting the narrator's changed life-position. She's clear and single, though she reveals details of a melodramatic relationship with a glamorous lady stockbroker. The theme of interrupted sex appears again, but this time, while there's major static electricity, the narrator expresses a firmer command of the situation. While

there's an emotional clarity to the character in this section, she's less compelling than she was before—one of those dreaded situations where exorcising psychological demons drains things of some of their juice.

Like Rower's previous novel, *Armed Response*, a wickedly funny look at funeral rituals in latter-day LA, the writer faces uncomfortable themes in *Lee & Elaine* with deep wit and an impressive sense of truthfulness. The narrator is an entertainingly messy woman, whose uncertainties are mordantly expressed in bitchy one-liners, a highly evolved self-deprecating internal voice, and candid expressions of self-doubt. Rower's work may have greatest appeal to neurotic souls and the people who love them. It's a high art to make them appealing, and Rower does just that. ▽

Correspondence

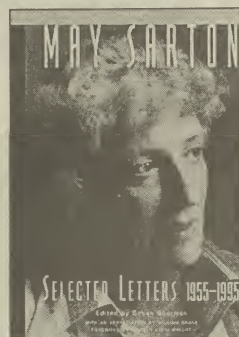
by Daniel Blue

Selected Letters 1955-1995 by May Sarton; edited by Susan Sherman, W.W. Norton & Company

These days, critics like to divide writers into elephants and termites. Elephants try to write serious masterpieces—big blocks of prose which impress the critics, but are deathly reads.

Termites wriggle around with lots of energy but little aim, and somehow they bring the house down. May Sarton, who lived from 1912 to 1995, desperately wanted to be an elephant. By the age of 50, she had turned out 15 volumes of poetry and prose, but *The New York Times* could still sneer, "[May Sarton] is a bad poet." Disillusioned, she switched gears, and in 1965 (four years before Stonewall) published *Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing*, a novel which addressed homosexuality. It horrified the critics, not to mention her friends, and she turned inward, retreating to rural New Hampshire.

There, often snowbound and alone, she wrote *Plant Dreaming Deep* and *Journal of a Solitude*. These two meditative books (well off the radar for elephants) awakened readers to needs which few authors had thought to address. Carolyn Heilbrun called *Solitude* "the watershed in women's autobiography," and both works undermined the largely male establishment Sarton had wanted to join.



Instead, readers began to search for another kind of book, and Sarton became one of the most fervently treasured (if critically spurned) American writers of recent decades.

Selected Letters 1955-1995 will give some of these fans pause. Artists are necessarily sensitive, but they need a driven ego and a rhino's hide to put out their work and deal with the rejection. In Sarton's letters we see the toughness and sensitivity align in ways which, while admirable from a distance, must have been hellish for the people

page 51 ▸

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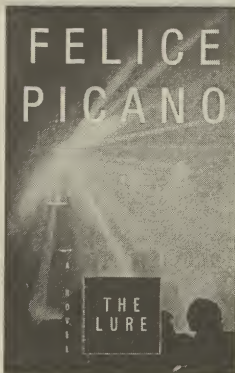
Picano's '79 novel 'The Lure' reissued

by Deborah Peifer

A mixed bag of books this week, which helps to remind us all that if something exists, there's a book about it, or will be soon. Perhaps the eeriest of the group is a reissue of Felice Picano's fourth novel, *The Lure* (Alyson, \$14.95). *The Lure* is a psychological thriller set in 1976, and first published in 1979, which stands the test of time as a very creepy tale of brutal murders of gay men in Greenwich Village.

The hero, Noel Cummings, is a Sociology Professor in desperate need of a topic, any topic, about which to write to satisfy his department's publication requirements.

Noel is heterosexual, and the burgeoning gay community in the Village might be worthy of a sociological study. Cycling early one morning, he hears agonized screams coming from a man in an abandoned warehouse. The man is being tortured to death, and in an impulsive moment, Noel tries but fails to save him. Learning that the murder is one of a series of murders of gay men, Noel is asked to become bait for the mysterious killer. Of course, submerging himself in gay life will also give him the necessary field experience for his study, so he agrees.



That decision sets the stage for a series of events that change Noel's life forever. Picano creates credible characters in impossible, yet always believable situations, and just when you think you've figured out the mystery, he gives you and it a great shake and sends you spinning.

Two things struck me as I read *The Lure* for the first time since 1979. First, Picano captures the milieu of gay life of the period with stunning accuracy. I lived in Manhattan in the mid-'70s, and *The Lure* reminded me of many of the men I knew, and the places we and they went to play. I actually think I was at some of the parties Picano describes, or at least I heard about them on Monday morning. Second, it occurred to me when I read Noel's comment that certain gays were "a breed apart, to be shunned, despised, as though they carried a terrifying disease," that all or most of the prototypes for these characters are probably dead. *The Lure* is set, after all, just before the plague struck. For younger queers who don't remember a time before AIDS, *The Lure* offers a look at the glory days of exuberant gay sex,

when more was definitely better, and lovemaking had nothing whatever to do with death. For the rest of us, of more mature years, the book is a reminder of that brief halcyon period after Stonewall when we could celebrate our sexuality and revel in our happy queer lives. Of course, you can just enjoy *The Lure* because it's a ripping good thriller, but I thought I'd mention that there were other values as well.

Women with a pair

Rivka Solomon decided that women needed a phrase to capture the courage, strength, and occasional recklessness embodied in "having balls." The phrase she chose was "that takes ovaries." Once

she had the phrase, her next important step was to collect real-life stories of women who proved that they definitely had ovaries. The anthology, *That Takes Ovaries!*



Book Report

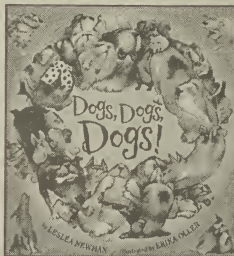
I actually think I was at some of the parties Felice Picano describes in his reissued novel 'The Lure,' set in 1976. At least, I heard about them on Monday morning.

Bold Females and Their Brazen Acts (Three Rivers, \$13), celebrates the courageous among us, women who risked all, and lived to tell the tale. And what tales they are. Read the first, Kathleen Tarr's hilarious and terrifying "Preaching to the Convicted," in the bookstore, and I guarantee you'll be compelled to buy a copy for yourself, and one for a friend.

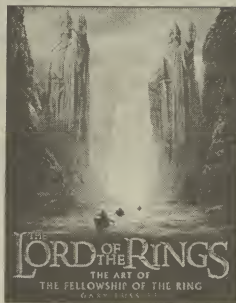
With Bush and the righteous wrong running things, we need well-told stories of bold women who act despite their fear. *That Takes Ovaries!* has inspired ovular open mikes around the country, where women gather to regale one another with their stories of adventure. One such takes place in SF on August 27, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at Alexander Book Co., 50 2nd St. Come along, and bring your ovaries.

Picture books

The sequel to Lesléa Newman's enchanting *Cats, Cats, Cats!* is here, and it is wonderful! *Dogs, Dogs, Dogs!* (Simon & Schuster,



\$16) is a counting book that will charm adults and children alike. With captivating illustrations by Erika Oller (I especially enjoyed "five dogs sneaking past a building full of cats"), *Dogs* is an un-mixed delight. Coming from a cat person such as myself, that is praise indeed.



On the opposite end of the picture book spectrum we have *The Lord of the Rings: The Art of the Fellowship of the Ring* (by Gary Russell; Houghton Mifflin, \$35), an examination of the extraordinary artistry that designers employed to capture Tolkien's fanciful tale on film. From character sketches and costume designs to sets and props, complete with commentary by the artists themselves, this is the book for those who loved the film. For the rest of

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A few good gay men

Out gay male recording artists on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

When it comes to out musicians, the women outnumber the men, but that's changing. Sure, there are more high-profile out lesbian artists (k.d. lang, Melissa Etheridge, the Indigo Girls, Meshell Ndegeocello). But with Rufus Wainwright, Elton John, George Michael and the Pet Shop Boys at the forefront of out, gay male artists, the scales may very soon be balanced. Most of the out gay male performers can be found in the realm of independent musicians.

Mark Weigle's third disc *Out of the Loop* (markweigle.com) finds the California-based singer/songwriter continuing to grow and mature as a singer and a songwriter. Gay love songs are Weigle's specialty, and "In the Last 5 Minutes," "I Remember," and "Blue Eyes to Brown Eyes" are among his best. Weigle does some risky things on this new disc, and they pay off for him. First of all, he covers a couple of oldies. He does Steven Fromholz's Bear Pride number "Bears" proud, and on the late Steven Grossman's groundbreaking "Out," Weigle does a duet à la Natalie and Nat King Cole. The most surprising track on the disc is "Love Your Body Like It Is," a hip-hop dance track that opens with Weigle reading from the self-improvement ads in his "local gay newspaper." It is Weigle's most political and radi-

cal musical statement to date.

Clear Day (Flint Boy/LML) is the debut disc by handsome dark-haired hunk Peter Davenport. It contains Davenport's controlled covers of standards such as "Come Rain or Come Shine" (done in a Brazilian-jazz style), a heartfelt reading of "Born for You," a rousing take on "When the Sun Comes Out," and a couple of original tunes, the best of which is the catchy "Stop, Look and Listen."

Sacha Sacket sounds as if he has been listening very closely to Tori Amos. Just listen to "Primordial," the opening track from his piano- and electric keyboard-driven debut disc *Alabaster Flesh* (Golden Sphinx). Sacket's phrasing and wordplay indicate a young man whose Amos true. He shines through on tracks such as "Battle-ship" ("There's a battleship inside of me/ It creaks and moans in apology/ For all the sick shit done in vanity/ For this cult of masculinity") and "Color" ("They say/we dream/in black and white./ But you came in color/last night.")

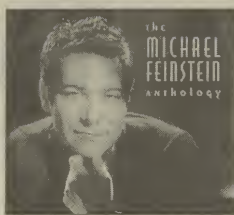
Lush life

Darius de Haas delivers a double dose of gay male power on his solo debut disc *Variations on Strayhorn* (PS Classics). An occasional *In the Life* correspondent and acclaimed Broadway performer (*Rent* and others), openly gay de Haas lends his distinctive, powerful voice to the tunes of

Duke Ellington's longtime collaborator, the late Billy Strayhorn, a gay man. Easily recognizable Strayhorn tunes "Take the 'A' Train," "Passion Flower," "Satin Doll" (co-written by Ellington and Johnny Mercer) and his signature song, "Lush Life," are just a few of the numbers de Haas respectfully interprets. One of the album's many high points is the song "My Flame Burns Blue," which was originally known as "Blood Count," written by Strayhorn from his hospital bed. The song, with newly written lyrics by Elvis Costello, makes its recording debut on this varied disc.

The host of a queer music series in San Francisco, Garrin Benfield is also an accomplished musician in his own right. His second album *Nowhere Is Brighter* (Eighth Note) showcases all of his strong points: the warmth of singing, his polished songwriting skills, and his guitar-playing. "What To Listen For" reminded me of late Crosby, Stills & Nash. "To Know" would sound great on a Bonnie Raitt album. The beautiful "Lonely Journey," "Will" (sort of a gay, cheating, country tune), "The Sense That I Get" (an acoustic blues number with Boz Scaggs providing some guitar), and the unusual love song "Leg" make a profoundly bright sound.

The *Michael Feinstein Anthology* (Rhino/Elektra) is a long-awaited 43-track two-disc compilation, covering an almost 10-year



time period. The Gershwins, Rodgers and Hart, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer, Gretchen Cryer, and openly gay

Jerry Herman are just a few of the Great American Songbook composers given the Feinstein touch. The Anthology also contains half-a-dozen previously unissued recordings, including a duet with Liza Minnelli on Kay Thompson's "Violin." ▼

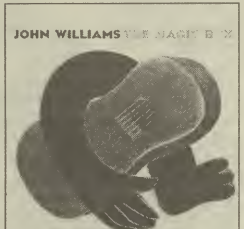
Gushing guitars

by Jason Serinus

Transit — John Fitz Rogers
Michael Nicolella, electric guitar
(Gale)

One thing is for certain: this recording will engender strong reactions. Some listeners will nod their heads in agreement with the liner notes' pretentious prose, which suggests that this collaboration between Rogers and Nicolella provides "an electrifying sonic network of speed and synthesis, a 44-minute panorama of intangible miracles." Others will find themselves screaming at *Transit's* dizzying drive, at such sections as the three-and-a-half minute "V," which begins with programmed sounds resembling a recording sped up halfway to infinity, and ends with Nicolella's electric guitar joining in to further hammer the point home.

car. Joined on various tracks by the African Children's Choir, three Caucasian musicians, and



Cameroon-born Frances Bebey, guitarist/composer John Williams offers a "magic box" assortment of 15 well-recorded, major-keys lovelies.

Although one rarely associates the guitar with the music of Africa, the instrument was first introduced to the continent and its islands by the Portuguese in the 15th century. But because Africa already had an indigenous assortment of unique string instruments which created sounds more central to its culture, it was only in the 20th century, as Western influence followed Christian missionaries into the heartland, that the guitar began to assert itself in African popular and traditional music. Indeed, from listening to this disc, a case could be made that Williams' instrument's very timbre seems light-years removed from the drums and chants that we associate with traditional tribal rituals.

Several of these selections, including the title track, are by Bebey, who plays and sings his new piece "Engome." One track is by Jean "Bosco" Mwenda, originally from Zaire; two are by Paul-Bert "Rossy" Rahasimanana, composed for a documentary film on Madagascar. The remainder, by Williams and others, are frequently based on traditional songs.

At the risk of sounding like the Grinch who stole Christmas, this disc offers confections so sweet as to seem far removed from present-day realities. Indeed, at its crossover nadir, when the African Children's Choir adds its voice to John Williams' homogenized guitar-and-panpipe arrangement of "Nkosi Sikelel'i Afrika," the anthem of the African National Congress that derives from a Christian hymn, images surface of perpetually smiling, happy darkies tap-dancing their way through Hollywood while the Klan marched through the Carolinas. Listening to this music, one would never know that the African continent is ravaged by AIDS, that millions are dying of starvation, and that the red soil of Madagascar has become so overfarmed and eroded that, seen from on high, the former Paradise looks like it is bleeding into the sea. Lovely as background music for din din, too cream-filled for a major course. ▼

Play with us!

Photo: Steve Underhill

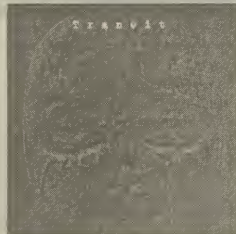
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In *Transit*, composer Fitz Rogers, influenced by Led Zepelin, the Steve Miller Band, and Jimi Hendrix, weds his computer-generated organs, pianos, drums and array of fantastic sounds to the astounding musicianship of his chosen collaborator, Michael Nicolella. Playing three guitars, a 1998 Fender Stratocaster, 1979 Gibson Les Paul Custom, and 1954 Guild X-150 archtop, allied with various amplifiers and stompboxes, the Seattle-based Nicolella is a virtuoso wonder.

Transit begins slowly, with several minutes of quasi-celestial computer-generated sounds. Once the guitar enters, however, the mood changes, as the conflict and chaos of earthbound existence rise to the fore. The work is studded with frequently stunning juxtapositions, its unapologetic commentary destined to either enrapture or tempt one to run for cover while invoking the names of Bach, Mozart and the entire Hindu panoply.

Parts of this virtual symphony seem ecstatic, others funereal. Its pace may energize you, or its multi-layered chaos may give you a headache. Either way, or both, it must be heard.

The Magic Box — John Williams
(Sony)

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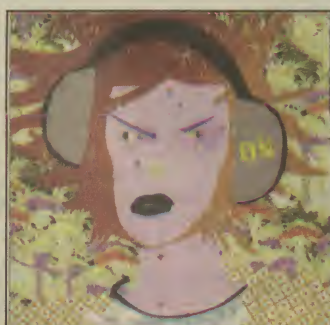
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Titan Media

◀ Arts cover

heartily into some deep-lovin' amidst waterfall and tide pool.

But what most typifies the Titan style is presented with élan in their very first movie, made in 1995, and still one of my all-time faves. In *River Patrol*, cockringed redhead Rusty Samuels tenderizes some country cowpoke before getting horrendously humped himself. A svelte beauty named Sean Rider jacks off in a hot tub that would be comically overfilled with dry ice if its wisps of steam weren't caressing the rolling contours of his body so sensuously. Most memorably, however, that intimidating slab of cockman named York Powers throws darkly glamorous Cliff Parker down in the sand at the river's edge and pisses on him, then takes him home for an extended bout that finds the pair swapping top and bottom roles with eager ferocity. *River Patrol* is a swell flick, and the reissue has generously expanded the original edit with 20 minutes of previously unseen Powers and Parker passion, punching up their fierce role-playing. It's scary. And it's the most important thing that Titan honchos Cam and Brian Mills talk about while dishing the stars and discussing the movie on the Audio Commentary track included with the disc's Bonus Features: the company's hallmark feature, the eroticism of male aggressive behavior.

Partners in power

"It was important to us that we not portray aggressive sex as punishment," Cam says on the disc's soundtrack. "It's powerplay between partners."

To hear Cam expand on this subject, I visited the Titan office. "We have our fetish moments," Cam told me with cool understatement, "but we always do our best to portray it as consensual and positive. We like to think of it as Friendly Aggression. Historically, sex has often been shown as punishment, or humiliation. But

Cliff Parker (left) and York Powers in Titan's *River Patrol*: swell.

degradation is not something that we want.

"Let me be more blunt: We feel that sex should be positive and take place in a clean, well-lighted place. We want people to be proud of their sexuality. That's why I like shooting sex in a gorgeous afternoon sun. Sometimes, a dark, enclosed space is appropriate. But at other times, it says that it's something to hide away."

That's why, despite the fact that Titan's movies routinely include extreme sport (watch recent editions of the *Fallen Angel* series, *Trespass*, and especially *SeaMen* for the full menu), you won't find coercion, kidnapping, or retributive initiation rites to an elite society in their films. And there are other Titan choices that further inform their depiction of a sexuality that is masculine and aggressive, yet unfettered by negative psychology.

"We try to have as little dialogue as possible. We don't hire actors; we hire exhibitionists, people who want to have sex in front of a camera. We cast men who are sexual animals, not pretty-boy handsome. We choose them on their sexual personality before their physical look. We try hard to have men who are versatile. We think that flip-flop is great: sex is a full meal, bottom and top. And we like the men natural, too. I mean, we're about an adult, masculine image. So we don't shave our men, or use make-up on them. A hairy chest, some salt-and-pepper? That's great. And then we try real hard to put them in natural settings and locations, and not fabricate sets. I figure that God is a far better set-designer than I'll ever be." Cam is famous for filming in panoramic, outdoor surroundings, yet not letting them overshadow his performers.

Group grope

These carefully calculated choices have produced a body of work that has not only stood the test of time, but will continue to look undated. Making these reissues even more appealing are the DVDs' newly added Bonus Features. Included are interviews and

solos and watersports footage not seen in the films, along with something even more tasty: fascinating backstage glimpses of the guys being guys, showering together, goofing around, and most gratifyingly, on the *Island Guardian* disc, good-humoredly grappling, groping and making out as they play naked football while being drenched by a warm tropical rain. Like the footage of the men's carefree river frolicking included as a Bonus on the *Trespass* disc, it's the kind of rewarding footage I'd like to see in the movie itself. Yet I agree with director Cam that, while erotic, it would slow the constant flow of full sex.

"Seeing the guys like this," Cam told me, "touches on what other directors think is accomplished by dialogue: it humanizes the performers. People want a touch of reality, to see this spontaneity, what the guys are like in real life."

But it's not merely the new Bonus Features that make these reissues groovier than their earlier and still-available Atomic Video DVD release. Each title of Titan's new edition has been produced from the original camera masters, with improved compression and digitizing providing a warmer picture with higher resolution.

In the '70s, Wakefield Poole alerted us to the possibilities of gay-produced porn. Then the Gage Brothers zeroed in on an ethos of the essentially masculine. And then, for a quarter-century, Chuck Holmes led the way with a basically sunny but frequently overcast depiction of our burgeoning sexuality. Now, blooming into the 21st century, Titan Media's carefully considered sexuality is bringing a refreshingly expansive attitude, without fiction or fraud, to some of the roughest male romancing and fetish play to be seen, making the company a singular leader in recognizing the responsibility that makers of erotica have to their audience. ▼

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BOOKS

The rise & fall of a gay hitman

by Tim Pfaff

One of the lingering after-effects of reading David Brock's *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative* (Crown) is difficulty believing anything you read. Try this: the May 21 *Drudge Report* claims Brock had been "committed to the psychiatric ward" of a Washington, DC hospital during production of *Blinded* — which, the *Report* adds breathlessly, "has been widely challenged on points of accuracy!"

In the story, Brock denies neither the "breakdown" nor the hospitalization, insisting only that he wrote no portion of the book "while he was under medical treatment." The *Report* quotes a "source" as saying, "[Brock] had delusions, he thought people were trying to kill him." The most casual reader of Brock's chronicle of the behind-the-scenes actions of America's Right Wing operatives in the '90s would hardly consider his fears for his life delusional. Brock leaves no doubt that the subjects of his book — the movers and shakers of America's far-right wing, his one-time comrades in arms — would stop at nothing.

Matt Drudge appears late in the book, where he is depicted as a mildly pathetic ("clad in an ill-fitting seersucker suit and straw fedora") master of a website the Right appreciated for its willingness to publish anything damaging to the person or Presidency of Bill Clinton. After Brock's second meeting with Drudge, "barhopping along the gay strip of Santa Monica Boulevard, which Drudge navigated like a pro," Brock writes

that Drudge e-mailed him that a conservative gossip-monger was "spreading stuff about you and me being fuck buddies. I should only be so lucky." Unrequited lust might account for the weird combination of sympathy and revenge that colors the recent *Drudge Report* story.

Still, Drudge's smear pales by comparison with the mildest page in *Blinded by the Right*, Brock's confessional account of his personal swing to the political right — and, contritely, back. A liberal-inclined student journalist at UC Berkeley's *Daily Californian* in the '80s, Brock switched political allegiances there. One of his *Daily Cal* investigative pieces exposed official malfeasance that got a University vice-president sacked — and a dark star was born.

After decamping to Washington, DC, Brock, with what could be called "blinding" speed, became one of stars of the "New Conservatism" (the kind without a conscience) and, as a journalist, the Radical Right's premier hitman. Journalism jobs — at the Rev. Moon's *Washington Times* and, later, at *The American Spectator* — eventually led to lucrative book contracts. He frankly equates his desires for money and acceptance ("I was trying to force the conservatives to love a faggot whether they liked it or not") as precipitants of the steady erosion of his professional (and personal) standards.

Sleaze galore

The parallel story throughout *Blinded* is Brock's out-again, in-again, out-again saga as a gay man swimming political waters poisoned by the "values" of the movement he championed. Brock

out of rejection and despair.

The current set includes very few love letters, although there are some thrilling hate ones. The selections hop about in subject, and most readers will have to refer frequently to editor Susan Sherman's chronology and notes. Each salutation announces a new recipient (there are few repeats), and the misses themselves, while often interesting, have the scattered force of remarks delivered spontaneously on the page. They lack art, and with it, focus.

We are saved by Sarton's gift for the telling phrase. Just as attention starts to flag, the reader stumbles on a sentence such as this (to a publisher): "I must say I think a check for \$5 for a poem of 55 lines... is just a little worse than nothing." Or, trying to wheedle another poet into a visit, she writes: "Patrick, my car, purrs at your name." Sometimes, she startles with a casual insight: "Old age is not interesting until one comes to it."

Throughout, we watch her managing her career, comparing it to a game of solitaire which she wins in the end. She went down fighting, still driving and writing at 83, and she even died with an ace up her sleeve. Publication of her letters (which she engineered in advance) becomes the last and posthumous card laid down in her attempt to consecrate herself as a major writer. Time will show if she succeeds. Meanwhile, the letters are alternately tedious and irrepressibly subversive, and her truest, most valuable epitaph was awarded by a friend: "I was fascinated by her. She was so alive." ▼

May Sarton

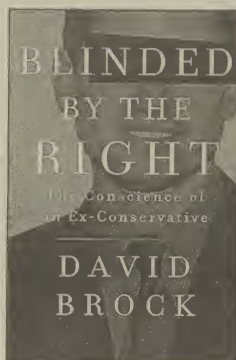
◀ page 44

ple around. In a note to her adored Louise Bogan, she announces that she no longer trusts critics, including Louise. In several letters, she worries that Mrs. Stevens will hurt and offend some of her dearest friends. She writes it anyway, arguing, "At some point, the established writer can afford to give himself his own book, the one he always wanted to write, but didn't quite dare to — this is it for me."

For awhile she endures more criticism ("It is like swallowing glass after glass of poison.") Yet celebrity brings its own troubles. When fans besiege her, Sarton remarks, "My motto, the opposite of dear Forster's, has become 'only disconnect.'"

Eventually, she encounters old age, treating it as an adventure to be explored while she gamely (if bad-temperedly) approaches the end. (At one point, we find her screaming in a hallway, "It's Hell! It's Hell!" while a terrified aide scampers in flight.) As Sarton self-diagnosed, "I'll be serene when I am dead and not before."

Readers who compare this selection with *Dear Juliette* (its immediate predecessor) may find the book disappointing. The earlier collection consisted of letters to Juliette Huxley, whom Sarton adored all her life but would rarely see. Its installments were more consistent in tone, inspired by love, and formed a story as we watched Sarton create a victory



makes it clear that, as a result, "the old in-out" held few joys for him. Anguishing over the journalistic sleaziness of his own Troopergate feature for the *Spectator* (about Clinton's womanizing in Arkansas) — and facing outing by others less sympathetic — Brock outed himself. The political and professional consequences came more slowly than he thought, but hit hard when they did. Interestingly, Brock evinces as little bitterness as surprise about the reaction.

Having secured his place in the conservative pantheon with his savage attack on Anita Hill (in an article that he expanded into the best-selling *The Real Anita Hill*), Brock had his final fall from grace from the "family" whose "values" he had touted with the publication of his *The Seduction of Hilary Rodham*. To even Brock's surprise, the aptly named *Seduction*, written to a seven-figure advance, turned out to be a well-researched, relatively fair and largely sympathetic portrait of the embattled First Lady.

Blinded could easily be viewed as yet another hit piece, this time on his compatriots. It's one of the most chilling accounts of a movement motivated more by hate than by ideology to have emerged from the ink-stained, rant-filled punditry of America's last decade. And it names names, prodigiously and, seemingly, fearlessly.

But I, for one, was not surprised to learn that Brock suffered as much from fears for his life as from the remorse for the lies he had written and the harm he had done others. The courage to say not just "I was wrong," but, "I'm sorry," gives this book its real power. The David who hit back at Goliath (a metaphor he himself uses) has scored another hit. What remains to be seen is whether Brock has deeper amends to make before he exorcises his personal demons. If so, I hope he lives to do it. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 28

Club Townsend

He'll spin you 'round like a record! Trannyshack and Universe present a midnight performance by Dead Or Alive, featuring plastic surgery addict Pete Burns in a rare SF appearance. Also special '80s performances by Heklina, Vinsantos, and Kim. DJs Shindog, Dangerous Dan, and Damon spin '80s all night. \$25. 9:30pm. 177 Townsend at 3rd. Tix/info: 974-6020; www.heklina.com

Everett Middle School

Golden Gate Performing Arts, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF, and La Crema Winery present "You're a Grand Old F[]ga." The 24th Annual Pride Concert, hosted by Sharon Gless from Showtime's *Queer As Folk*, a musical tribute to Gay Pride in America. Hear the fabulous Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF, the 200-voice SF Gay Mens Chorus, and their very special guests, the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. \$22. 7pm & 9pm. Church & 16th sts. Info/tix: www.sfgmc.org

Polo Fields, Golden Gate Park

"International Gay Rugby Tournament." The SF Fog Rugby Football Club is hosting the Int'l Gay Rugby Assn. and Board (IGRAB)'s Rugby Tournament and Festival, informally known as the Bingham Cup, an int'l competition among gay men's rugby clubs. Over 200 players will compete in one of the worlds toughest and most brutal sports. Competition starts at 10am today and Saturday, June 29. Admission is free.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

"Pride Shabbat." SF's only LGBT synagogue invites all local and out of town LGBT Jews, their families, friends and lovers to join with members at 7pm for a wine & cheese gathering prior to regular Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday Night) Worship Service which starts at 8:15 pm. One Shabbat (social hour) to follow. The weekend continues with Torah Study at 9am and Saturday morning services at 10am. CSZ will also march in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 30. Free. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Info: 861-6931; www.shaarzahav.org

Dance Mission Theater

Dancers Group and 1000 Grey Birds present "Nine Days on Dark Water," a Woven Tale in Nine Movements by acclaimed European dance-theatre director Angus Balbernie. Live music by Peter Whitehead, Sean Feit, Joan Ling-Zwissler and Edward Shocker. Performances by Angela Bausch, Brenton Cheng, Cinzia Sperou-Gloekler (Australia), Hilary Bryan, Krista DeNio, Maria Ramos de Barros (Portugal) and Vitali Kononov (Russia). The piece expands a simple story and a scene from a bad novel into a meditation on power and visibility. \$15. 8pm. Thru June 30. 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 920-9181; www.9DaysOnDarkWater.com

Serra Bowl, Daly City

"Bowl With Pride," a 9-pin no-top mini tournament tournament. 11:30am check-in; practice starts promptly at 12 noon. \$15 entry. All bowlers will bowl 3 games. 3301 Junipero Serra Blvd., Daly City (across from Colma BART). Info/directions: Matt, Serra Bowl, (650) 992-3444.

The Sound Factory

Famed nightclub producer and DJ Page Hodel presents the "Pride Q Dance Party," the largest girl's dance party of the year. Join thousands of women to hear current, cutting-edge and classic Hip Hop, House and Dance in the main room with DJs Page Hodel and Ezzy Medina. Jorge Terez will be spinning slamin' HH and R&B all night in the huge red room; upstairs, enjoy a combination of Salsa and Meringue with old school Funk Soul and Disco classics with DJ La Coqui and special guest DJ. The venue



Pete Burns of Dead Or Alive performs at Club Townsend. See Friday.

is SF's most massive SoMa dance-space. \$15. 9pm-4am. 21+w/ID. 525 Harrison St. (at 2nd St.).

The Transfer

Fudgie Frottage presents Frankie Tenderloin & the RENT BOYS, the hot new Drag King all-star band with Annie Toone as Frankie Tenderloin on guitar, Will Dewar (NY) on drums, Sammy Slacker (LA) on bass. Part Rat Pack, part Sex Pistols, these Shamen of Shwing are the one and only all-Kinging all-Singing supergroup. With performances by Rusty Hips, Johnny Cougar, the lovely Humidity LuRay, & Nikki Starr. MC'ed by Fudgie Frottage. Sounds by DJs Stefanie Phillips and Puddy. Partial proceeds benefit P.A.W.S. (pets are wonderful support). \$5 in drag (King, Queen, Punk, Glam, Rocker, New Wave, High Femme, Fetish, etc); \$7 in tired attire. 10pm-2am. (after the Frameline Festival screening of *Venus Boyz* at The Castro). 198 Church at Market. Info: Call 282-JEST; www.transferbar.com; www.madkats.com/rb.html

CELLspace

Benefit concert: Musicians for Medical Marijuana present The Venusians, a dance-driven fusion of Pop, Techno and World Music that integrates tight arrangements with the freedom of a jam band. The lead instrument is a futuristic space horn called an EVI. Plus DJ Dragonfly, an artist heavily influenced by the Asian Underground scene, and Danny Heines, an innovative guitarist on the world music scene who is adept at Tuvan throat singing. \$15. 8pm. 2050 Bryant St. Tix/info: 457-6388; www.m4mmj.org

550 Barneveld

Gus presents "The 6th Annual Ball of Pride at Metropolis," eight hours of pure trance by nu-skool trance jocks Gryder+Hughes, Jason G., MrJonP, and Joseph Lee. Extra dance lighting, black lights, and flagger platforms. \$20 adv.; \$30 door. 10pm-5am. 550 Barneveld (at Oakdale/Industrial). Tix at Body, All American Boy, Gold's Gym Castro, Body Body Wear; www.guspresents.com

ing stand for Old Dykes and Disabled Dykes sponsored by Temple Sha'ar Zahav and New Leaf at the corner of Dolores and 16th Streets. March arrives in the Castro at approx. 9:30pm. Info: 241-8882; www.dykemarch.org

Yerba Buena Ice Center

"Skate Out 2002," where skaters can be themselves, or someone else! Celebrate Pride Weekend watching figure skaters compete in a fun and campy event. Most of these skaters are training for the upcoming Gay Games in Sydney, Australia. Some skaters will be competing, some will be testing to qualify for the level they wish to compete in the Gay Games and some will just be skating for fun and prizes. Among the skaters is US Adult National Gold Level Champion, Jay Kobayashi, who does a Michelle Kwan impersonation that will have you cheering for perfect 6.0 scores. \$10 donation. Doors open shortly after 5pm; arrive early; seating limited. 750 Folsom St. between 3rd & 4th. Info: 820-3535; www.32degreesmagazine.com/skateout.html.

A Different Light Bookstore

"Pink Saturday Book Signing," featuring authors all day long. The lineup: Katherine Forrest & Thea Hillman (11am); Jess Wells & Susan Stryker (11:30am); Dorothy Allison (noon); Jewelle Gomez (12:30pm); Michelle Tea & Lynn Breedlove (1pm); Shar Rednour & Jackie Strano (1:30pm); Armistead Maupin (2pm); Kirk Read (2:30pm); Cleis Press authors Don Weise, Felice Neuman, Patrick Califia, Ann Bannon, Staci Haines & Violet Blue (3pm); Rob Rosen (4pm); Karl Soehnlein, Ian Phillips, Paul Borja & Krandall Kraus (4:30pm); Kevin Bentley (5pm); Winston Leyland (5:30pm); Midori (6:30pm); and Charles Anders (7pm). All subject to change. Free. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

Bill Graham Civic Auditorium

Noble Beast presents "ReUNION 2002, Brave New World," the official Pride Party, with eight hours of music from world-renowned DJ Neil Lewis. Lighting genius by Alan Parkinson (Australia); art installation by Michael Sigmund (Men's Inner Journey). With added entertainment from Circuit MOM and a surprise guest. Presented in conjunction with beneficiaries Continuum, Maitri Compassionate Care, Positive Resource Center, STOP AIDS Project, and Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center. \$50 GA; \$80 VIP; \$125 Seven-Party Pride Pass; \$155 Seven-Party VIP Pride Pass. 9pm-5am. 99 Grove St., Civic Center Plaza. Info: noblebeast.org

NQAF @ Brava Theater

National Queer Arts Festival presents a special Pride Weekend event. Join Deep Dickollective (D/DC) and special guests of the Bay Area homophop/spoken word community in celebrating the official release of their debut CD, *BourgiBohoPostPomoAfroPromo* (Sugartruck Recordings, the imprint created by Juba Kalamka). Featuring



Angus Balbernie's watery tale, *Nine Days on Dark Water*, at Dance Mission. See Friday.

D/DC members P25 percent (Tim'm T. West), Pointiveflag (Juba Kalamka), LSP The Lightkind Philosopher (Philip Atiba Goff), G Minus (Ralowe Trinitrotoluene Ampu) and Ms. Edge (Dazie R. Grego). \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 2789 24th St. (at York). Info/tix: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org; www.deep-dickcollective.com

Cafe Du Nord

"Junk." Be there or be square. SF Pride Grand Marshals Christopher Lee and Shawna Virago will be in attendance (psst...wanna march with Shawna and Christopher in the parade? Call 820-3223). Cover. 9pm. 2170 Market St.

The Endup

"Pride Dance Marathon" featuring DJs Christine (Other Whirled); Blackstone (Faith; Tarantic Records); Ellen Ferrato (Sugar; 2nd Sunday); and Adrian (Endup; Detour). This party kicks off 30 hours of non-stop dancing (10pm Sat. - 4am Mon.). 401 6th St. (at Harrison). Info: 357-0827; www.theendup.com

Galleria Design Center

Jito presents "Freedom SF," a dazzling Pride dance in the splendor of the Galleria Design Center with its soaring atrium. This is where Pride, elegance, sophistication, good cheer, and high-energy spirits come together for a spectacular celebration in style. Featuring stellar DJ Mark Anthony from Montreal. \$50 adv.; \$60 door. 10pm-6am. 101 Henry Adams St. Tix/info: Body or Citizen in Castro; TicketWeb.com; Jito.com

1015 Folsom

Gus presents "Mass," a massive 10-hour Gay Pride Marathon T-Dance Ritual guaranteed to have you bouncing off other sweaty, sexy men and soaring to the tried-and-true circuit sounds of DJs Phil B. (Aftershock), Ra (Miami), and Rob Kaftan (Metropolis; Mass). \$20 adv.; \$30 door. 5pm-3am. 1015 Folsom St. Tix at Body, All American Boy, Gold's Gym Castro, Body Body Wear; www.guspresents.com

550 Barneveld

Club Papi SF presents "The Brown Party," with three hot Latin dance floors. Live on stage: Latin Freestyle Diva Safire, singing her hits "Let Me Be the One," "Don't Break My Heart" and others. Plus circuit diva Flava singing "A Show You Have To See To Believe." \$20. 9pm-2am. 21+w/ID. Tix: Body in the Castro; www.LatinBoyz.com. Info: 675-9763; www.papipresents.com.

Sat 29

Golden Gate Park

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence fire the starting gun for "Pride Run 2002," a 5K and 10K run/walk sponsored by SF FrontRunners, the founding chapter of the world's largest gay and lesbian sports organization. Open to all runners, walkers and wheelchair riders. Race followed by potluck picnic, prize raffle, and awards ceremony. Race starts/ends at Stowe Lake Boat House (btwn JFK Drive & MLK Drive). Benefits the Positive Resource Center and the Metropolitan Community Foundation. Pre-register online at www.active.com; Info: 978-2429; www.sffrontrunners.org

Dolores Park

The 10th annual San Francisco Dyke March begins with entertainment & speakers at 3pm. ASL interpretation available. Please bring your own garbage bag. The march steps off at 7:30pm. Women using wheelchairs will be right behind the lead banner. This year's march also led by Clean & Sober and Women of Color Contingents. The Dyke March is Women only! All women and trans-folk welcome. Brothers please stand aside and cheer the women on! Special review-



Deep Dickollective, SF's cool homophoppers, rap at Brava. See Saturday.

220 Club

Defiant Productions presents "The Shaft," named for NYC's 1970s uber-sleaze club "The Mineshaft." Two floors of porn, punk, rock 'n' roll & subversion. Main floor: Rock'n'roll Hellfire room. In the dank cellar: The Electronic Den of Iniquity. Hosted by Hekline, the mistress of Trannyshack. Enter the "Pretty Penis Polaroid Contest!" A benefit for a certain SF LGBTQ Youth Services Group. Bands: Nick Name (LA), Agnes featuring Vinsantos, and Pepper-Spray, including Jordan L'amour, Peggy L'Eggs, Princess Kennedy, and Precious Moments. DJs: Luis (Pansy Division, Hole in the Wall), Pinky Ring (Trannyshack, Hole in the Wall), Don Baird (Hole in the Wall), Mike Trombley (Club Lovely, Club K.Y., The Fairways), Jacob (Club K.Y., Q.F.C.-Seatle), Spike (Club K.Y., Club Guacamoli-Stockholm) and Lance Rock (Club K.Y., ScHLOCK!, Cake-NYC, Mother-NYC). \$20 sliding. 10pm-4am. 18+ w/D. 220 Jones St. Info: www.theshaft.us

Phoenix Hotel and Pool

Don Spradlin presents "SPLASH!" an outdoor, daytime pool party where you'll see some of SF's hottest men in bathing suits, along with the new faces visiting from out of town. Sounds by DJ Michael Graylen (NYC). \$15. Noon-6pm. 601 Eddy St. (at Larkin). Valet parking.

El Rio

"In Bed With Fairy Butch For Gals, Transfolks & Their Pals!" A Stripper! Studded, Dyke March Kick-Off Garden Party! Soak up some rays, cocktail in hand, and take in a bevy of naked beauties before the Dyke March. Gals & transfolks of all colors and their friends: pack your pockets with a parcel of ones & fives for tips. Sex toy extravaganza raffle ticket. \$10-15 sliding. Doors open 3pm; show at 4:30pm. Then from 8pm-2am its "Mango PM," a dance party for women with DJs Chilli D and Edaj spinning hip hop, dancehall, soca and samba. \$7 cover. 3158 Mission St. at Cesar Chavez. Info: elriosf.com

Sun 30

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for an Oat Hill Mine Trail Hike. Enjoy panoramic views of the Napa Valley from these volcanic cliffs. This is Peregrine Falcon territory, so bring your binoculars. Strenuous 9-mile hike with 1,900-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:15am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Mikes on Bikes

Queer boys' bicycle contingent in the Pride Parade celebrates five years of sexier legs, lovelier loins. Dress to kill & ride to thrill. \$5-\$10 sliding includes the now notorious afterparty "Trash" at the Powerhouse with DJ Bus Station John. Info/registration: 905-8854.

City Nights

Club Papi and Faith co-present the SF Pride After-Party, with CD release for Paulina Rubio. Free CDs and posters all night long. In the Papi Room: DJs Blackstone and Mike do house and Latin beats. In the Chulo Room: hip hop and R&B with DJ Jay-R. Sexy go-gos. \$10. 8pm-2am, 715 Harrison St. 18+ w/D. Info: 675-9763.

Third & Harrison

Jito presents "Aftershock," with DJ Wayne Arnold spinning in the nightclub where the legendary party began seven years ago. \$30 adv. \$40 door. 4am-9am. 3rd St. & Harrison. Tix/info: Body or Citizen in Castro; TicketWeb.com; Jito.com

Cat Club

The Palace Boys bring you "Bump," a sizzling after-hours club featuring Hi-NRG & trance soundz with DJs Matt V (Loveworks) & Joe Bermudez (Boston) from 2-6:30am, followed by DJs Tom Bailey & DJ Frank Abraham 6:30-11am. \$20 adv; \$25 door. 21+ w/D. 1190 Folsom St. (at 8th St.). Info: www.bumpsf.com

Jezebel's Joint

"Club K.Y.," the alternative queer noise club presents a special night of indie-rock, noise-pop and punk. DJs Spike, Jacob and guests bring the latest underground sounds to the Tenderloin. Info: www.spike00.com/clubky



Jay Kobayashi interprets Michelle Kwan in *Skate Out*. See Saturday.

Glaskat

pyrrone presents "Rising," a sacred morning dance ritual and benefit for the SF LGBT Community Center, with SF's own legendary DJ Jerry Bonham (Spundae) spinning the kind of trance techno sounds he's made world famous. 5am-noon. 520 4th St. (site of the former Trocadero). \$30 adv.; \$40 door (\$30 door w/Pride Pass).

Harry Denton's 'Rouge'

After the parade, join Page Hodel in the deliciously opulent "Rouge," offering two parties for women back to back in one day. The first party, "Respect" (4-10pm), will feature '60s, '70s & '80s Disco & Old School classics and a splash of current hits. Joining Hodel at the turntables will be DJ La Coqui playing sweltering salsa and meringue. Then from 10pm-2am join the Club Q "After Parade Party" and dance to tip-top Hip Hop, R&B and House. \$10. 21+ w/D. 1500 Broadway (at Polk St.). Valet parking \$10.

The Endup

"Pride Dance Marathon" continues with Sunday T-Dance starting at 6am with DJs Jason Hayes, Larry Reed, Vince, Charlotte the Baroness, and David Harness, and continues 8pm-4am with "Devotion" DJs Ruben Mancias and Pound Boys. 401 6th St. (at Harrison). Info: 357-0827; www.theendup.com

Mon 1

Herbst Theatre

42nd Street Moon presents "A Grand Night for Rodgers," a Richard Rodgers fundraising gala dedicated to the composer's centennial year. Featuring Oscar-winning actress Celeste Holm, Rodgers leading lady Patricia Morison, cabaret artists Andrea Marcovicci and Jeff Harnar, and performer Steve Ross. \$35-\$125. 7pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Info: 552-8205; www.42ndStMoon.org

Theatre Rhinoceros

Our Love presents "Black Like This," an urban art symposium for black gay/bi/trans men to inspire, challenge and share their experiences. The goal is to unify the black gay/bi community through art and artistic expressions. 7pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2126 16th St. (at South Van Ness).

Tue 2

Bar on Castro

Positive Force presents Bar Night Castro, a social event with other HIV+ men. Non-alcoholic drinks and bar nuts provided. Mixed drinks, beer, and wine are available for purchase. Come find out what question is on everyone's mind! 6:30pm. 456B Castro St. (near Market St.)

A Different Light Bookstore

Charles Anders reads from his hit book *The Lazy Crossdresser*, in which he demonstrates the skills needed to crossdress as much or little as you want. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

Wed 3

Bazaar Cafe

GLBT Songwriter Series hosted by singer/songwriter Garrin Benfield. This month's guest is Kristi Martel. 7pm. Bazaar Cafe, 5927 California St. Info: www.garrin.com

The Stud

"Stood Up," a diverse evening of stand-up comedy with your hostess Pippi Lovestocking. Plus Ronn Vigh, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$5. Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8:30pm. 9th & Harrison.

Thu 4

Hotel Ibiza, Oakland

East Bay Pride presents "Vibe," a Womyns Independence Day Celebration, with an All-Star Line-Up of women DJs. Three dance floors; huge pool and jacuzzi; fireplace lounge; tropical jungle garden. In The Fly Lounge: Page Hodel (Club Q/Respect), Edaj (Mango/Backstreet), and Olga T. In the Red Room: Chata Gutierrez (KPOO FM/Backstreet) and Chili D (Mango/Roccapulco/Backstreet). Out in The Pool House: Leslie Abraham, Ezzy Medina (Club Q/G-Spot/Funky Co productions) and DJ Gray (Home/GNC Productions). Free massages, tasty treats, and sexy Eye Candy Dancers! Bring swimsuit (changing room and free towels). \$10 b4 10pm (\$15 after 10pm). Music starts 9am. Located at 10 Hegenberger Road, across from the Hilton Hotel, just before Oakland Int'l Airport. Take the Hegenberger/Coliseum exit from 880 and head west about six blocks. 21+ w / I D only. Room reservations: (510) 869-3851. Info: eastbaypride.org; hotelibiza.com

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Uniform & Leather Ball

Friday, June 28th from 08:00 pm to Midnight

In the historic Civic Center Area of San Francisco
Includes: Hosted Bar, Appetizers, Buffet Dinner, Dessert
Featuring

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Pride on parade

SF Leather Contingent to march

by Mister Marcus

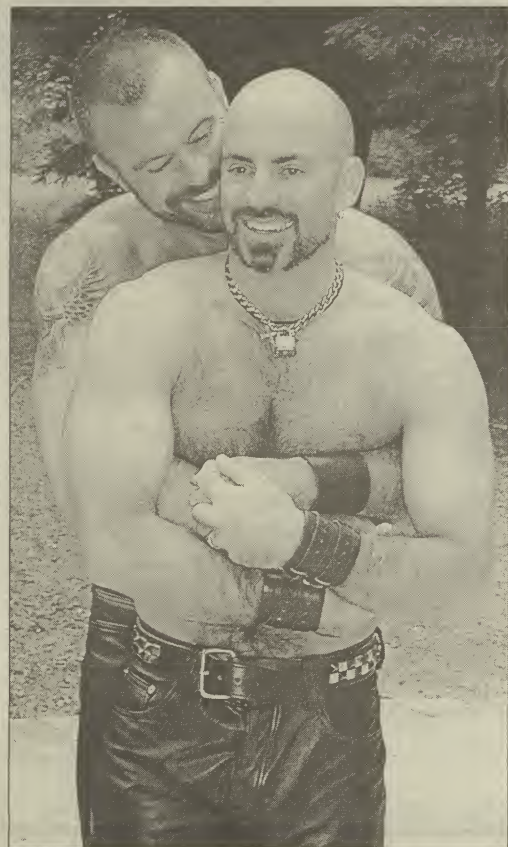
It's that time of year again! From coast to coast, the LGBT communities of this vast country will take to the streets to make our presence known to the world. In most cities with an organized leather leadership community, leather pride will shine among all the other contingents, and volunteers are hard at work to make a strong presence, including San Francisco's eager volunteers. IML 2002 Stephen Weber sends his regrets at not being able to march with the SF Leather Contingent. He is booked for the parade in Houston the day before, and there is no airline capable of getting him here in time for the leather contingent stepping off. But San Francisco is just one of his target cities, and he will absolutely be here for the Folsom Street Fair.

The SF Leather Contingent for this year's parade will boast the Sacramento Valley Leathermen's color guard; there will also be an honor guard with the flag of Mexico in honor of Mr. Leather Mexico Leo Suarez, followed by another honor guard with the flag of Canada in honor of Mr. SF Leather Peter Jackson; almost 150 motorcycles; and honorary leather marshal Alan Selby, followed by the Leather Dyke Daddy, Boy and Diva and bike club parade of colors, followed by title-holders and just plain independent leatherfolk. Sounds impressive to me. Maybe this year we'll get some TV coverage!

More sashes

The IML 2002 contest is barely over one month old, and already there are pretenders to the throne for IML 2003, the 25th anniversary of the leather community's biggest leather contest. Up at the Russian River Resort in Guerneville, CA, last Saturday, the Triple R staged their Mr. Triple R 2002 contest. It was fun judging with "Mama" and Mr. North Coast Leather Rodger Jensen. There were only two contestants, Scott Voelte and Scot Howard. After their pre-judging interviews, the onstage contestant was emceed by Danny Williams and T. Jay Cain. Slightly over \$2,000 was raised by the two contestants in raffle ticket sales benefiting the Sonoma Co. AIDS Emergency Fund.

Danny and T. Jay traded barbs throughout the onstage dialogue,



A leather "commitment" ceremony took place last Sunday, June 23 in Golden Gate Park between Mr. Oregon State Leather Rob Hathaway (rear) and Mr. South Plains Leather 2001 Dan Azavedo. Will they live in Dallas or Portland? And who gets the "pick of the litter"?

and the place was packed to the rafters, with one hilarious moment after another. Danny was in good form, but so was T. Jay. When Don "Ho" Tse finished tallying the scores, Scott Howard emerged the victor. Mr. Howard will vie for the North Coast Leather 2002 title later this year. The winner of that tryst advances to IML in Chicago in May 2003.

In New York, the details are sketchy, but part of their Leather Pride weekend included the Mr. LURE 2002 contest. When all was said and done, Walt Weiss took the title and now sports another fabulous David Menkes sash as Mr. LURE 2002.

In the District of Columbia, the DC Leather Sir and Boy 2002

contest took place at Titans (leather area upstairs from Hamburger Mary's). The DC Leather Sir is Jeff Parks, and José Gutierrez is the DC Leather Boy. They advance to compete for the Mid-Atlantic regional Leather Sir/Boy competition the weekend of July 12-14.

Don't be alarmed

The word leaked out last week that the red-brick building on the corner of Dore Alley and Folsom Street has been sold, and will be torn down to build 80 units of "affordable housing" any day now. This chain of events spells doom for the big parking lot occupied with vendors and booths at both Dore Alley and Folsom Street fairs. SMMILE president Bob Goldfarb (who was very visible at

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, June 28

The Leather/Uniform Ball presented by the Phoenix Uniform Club in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building, around 1900, with booze, food, Gail Wilson & City Swing and uniforms/leather galore. Tickets are only \$25. Hope to see you all there!

The 15 Association bar party at the Loading Dock featuring the Chicago Hellfire Club, with demos, networking and celebrating BDSM pride.

Saturday, June 29

Annual Pride Brunch at 2200 for the champagne reception, and 1200 for a gourmet brunch at the Ramada Plaza Market St. @ 8th. \$100 host seats, and \$75 for general admission. For info, (415) 695-1942 or e-mail to: empsachet@aol.com. To

benefit Positive Resource Center.

Sunday, June 30

This is the big day. Watch your community express themselves in every way conceivable, and join the celebration in the Civic Center afterward. Sundance Saloon hosts a country/western gala dance at the Ramada Plaza immediately following the parade, in the ballroom for only \$5.

Thursday, July 4

San Franciscans MC host a beer/soda bust at the Eagle Tavern from 1500-1800 for only \$7: an All-American spectacle.

Weekend, July 5-7

Living in Leather in Dallas Texas, the big weekend for the NLA, but no details at my deadline.

POLKSTRASSE

Proud to be pouring

by Sweet Lips

Welcome out-of-towners! Hello, old friends! It's Pride time, which means many thirsts will need to be quenched, and I have just the solution. Yours Truly will be walking the plank on Pride Day, Sunday, June 30, here at popular Club Rendez-Vous in the heart of Polk Gulch, just a hop and skip from Civic Center, where all the action will be happening. For those of you who want to get out of the sun into a cozy place packed with gorgeous men, I invite you to come on down starting at 6 a.m. (we start partying early in this part of town!) and continuing till 1:30 p.m., after which the great Ronnie Lynn will take over.

The club now has Brian, formerly of Kimo's, on night shifts, and he's a great guy, so drop in

and have a cocktail with him.

Keep in mind that in August the club will be hosting "Until There's a Cure Day" on August 11 starting at 10:30 a.m. with morning muffins and cocktails. Then we'll be heading over to the park for the SF Giants game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. After our team wins (of course), we'll then head back to the club for more boozing and schmoozing with fellow fans. The tickets will be \$35 for lower reserved box seats.

For more info, call the club at 673-7934, or visit online at www.clubrendez-vous.com

Many other wonderful bars and bartenders await your business during this festive season. Head over to the Gangway Bar on

Larkin Street, where dazzling Danny will be working the early shift from 6 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Wednesday, and noon to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday. It's always fun with Danny. And of course, the very popular Johnny is still holding forth there Saturdays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to closing. I hate to try to remember how long he has been at the Gangway ... my memory doesn't go that far back!

Have a great Pride weekend, and remember to drop on by to see me. That way you can tell your friends back home you came to San Francisco and met the oldest bartender in the city, and won't you be the envy of everyone! ▼

Cocktail Hour

Sleeping

◀ page 36

ducer) creates a giddy man-child with Stanley, and his ever-so-cautious seduction of the groggy Lee is a masterpiece of effective comic understatement. As Lee, Wimmer avoids obvious gay-bashing bravado, instead creating a character of heaving internal conflicts that are subtly indicated until they explode.

Mink Stole, who found fame in the early John Waters movies, ac-

quits herself quite well as the talk-show host with a hard heart hidden behind a sunny exterior. Dan Renzi, a handsome hunk from MTV's *Real World*, does an excellent impression of a snooty queen as the talk-show's makeup man. Sister Roma, of the Perpetual Indulgence order, plays Stanley's best friend, whose drag performances provide commentary on the action. Praise, too, to A.J. Davenport as Stanley's mother, Nora Ludden as the talk-show producer, and Dia Shepardon as Lee's increasingly confused girlfriend.

Larsen has turned another corner with *Sleeping with Straight Men*, but that doesn't mean he's abandoned "nudity and sexual situations," as advertisement warnings trumpet. But in this case, the sex doesn't seem so much gratuitous as it does an enticing gratuity that helps charge the play's climax. ▼

Sleeping with Straight Men will run in Theatre Rhino's Studio through July 21. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Call 861-5079.

Notorious C.H.O.

◀ page 40

the world of the neighborhood. "I used to read the *Bay Area Reporter* — I was always looking to gay men as role models. We had a very large gay and lesbian literature section, from gay porn to Jean Genet, from James Baldwin to *Meat Men*."

Cho finds it remarkable just how gay-friendly her parents have

been. "My father's best friend is this British gay man — tattoos over three-fourths of his body. He's been friends with my father for 20 years, he's painted portraits of my father — this very interesting love affair has been going on forever."

In the opening of *Notorious C.H.O.*, we glimpse Cho's fans entering Seattle's Paramount Theatre doing their irreverent takes on Cho, and channeling her mother, long a staple of her act. "I

think my mother is what makes me remember my culture. I love when all the people are coming into the theatre. We're seeing people we haven't seen on film before — gays and lesbians, people of color, older people — who are real moviegoers and consumers, and they don't always have a voice in mainstream culture." ▼

Notorious C.H.O. opens Wed., July 3.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

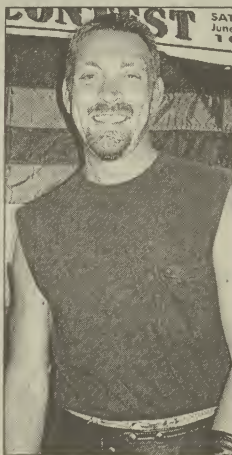
Folsom Street East last weekend in NY) assures us that issues are being resolved with the soon-to-be new tenants, and any construction work will not begin until 2004, if at all. So let's not get our walnuts in a vise too soon!

Grand lady of leather

Audrey Joseph, she of IML, Drummer and Mr. SF Leather contests and a myriad of other fundraising endeavors, celebrated her 55th birthday last Thursday, June 20, with a shindig at the 2223 Market restaurant. Dignitaries high and low were on hand to laud one of the leather community's most esteemed members. Greetings, proclamations and praise were heaped on the unsuspecting Audrey from Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, the Chief of Police of SF, the Pride Parade Committee and many of her close friends. It was a grand evening for a grand leather lady, and we wish her many more as she explores new avenues after the closure of the world-famous Club Townsend.

Wedding bells

A few years ago, Carlos Lar-



Scot Howard of Guerneville was chosen Mr. Triple R Leather 2002 last Saturday, June 23. He advances to compete at the Mr. North Coast Leather 2002 contest later this year.

anaga, one of the best leather designers in the business, attended IML for the first time ever. He met and fell in love with a handsome man and promptly moved to Denver after a grand wedding cer-

emony in San Francisco. Carlos is now the sole owner of CJ's Leather, and doing extremely well.

This year, Mr. Oregon State Leather Rob Hathaway (a #1 hunk in everybody's book) went to Chicago to compete in IML 2002, and although he didn't win the title, he managed to capture the heart of one of the leather community's most elusive playboys, Dan Azavedo (formerly Mr. South Plains Leather) from Dallas. You might say their interaction had just the right "spark," and so, last Sunday, June 23, in one of the flowery dells of Golden Gate Park, Dan and Rob exchanged vows and are now "domestic partners." At my deadline, it was unclear whether Rob would move to Dallas, or Dan would move to Portland. The issue has not been resolved/settled, but anybody willing to take bets? Stay tuned!

Hey, it's time to get out there and celebrate LGBT pride, and I suggest we add another letter "L" to the acronym, as in leather, and rename it the LGBTL parade. See you on Market Street and at the Civic Center. Watch for the leather contingent and the Bare Chest Calendar Float. See you next week, but in the meantime, for leather news from cities around the world, click on www.Leather-Page.com. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Marcus At Dolores Park
Thurs. May 23. I was looking for "a big stick" from the ice cream man. U said you had one. Call Bob. ☎ 71832

Met At Midnight Sun Memorial
Weekend on Saturday. Went to your house on Church Street. I blew it. "Sorry!!" Please call. Like to make it up. ☎ 71833

Lands End 6/6, 6/7
Friday- You leaving, dark hair, blue t-shirt and jeans. Me arriving, blue jeans, light brown hair. I should have followed and talked. Interested? Call me. ☎ 71848

Robert At Blow Buddies
We met and had a heart and soul connection last June. Our cards got mixed up. Let's touch again. Tony. ☎ 71849

Sun 2/Jun 38 Geary 11P Westbd
You: Handsome guy in black. De-boarded Third Ave. Me: Scruffy Latin, reading a book in back. Wish I had followed you. Second chance? ☎ 71850

Sunday 6/2 Both Driving Turk St.
We were driving parallel up Turk St. You nodded twice in my direction. I was looking but couldn't respond. Had full car. Would love to hear from you. Liked you very much. ☎ 71851

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Young Cute Russian!
Is looking for an intelligent cute American or European (preferably Russian or Italian) to share some common interests, humor, etc. Must be under 40. Looking for love. ☎ 71834

Older Asian Wanted!!
WGM, 50yrs, attractive, healthy, well hung, HIV negative; seeks Asian man, 35-45yrs for relationship of fun, love, warmth & passion. Prefer non-smoker, HIV-, and height/weight proportional. ☎ 71835

Dark Eyes Olive Skin, Dark Hair
Turn me on. 37 year old blind hair very muscular with a well rounded body and blond moustache. I am HIV+ versatile smooth easy going Latin or Mediterranean looks A+. ☎ 71836

Asian Partner Wanted!!
By European man; 44- 6'185lbs. Into art, music, hiking, classic movies, weight lifting and enjoying the good life. Don't like shallowness or playing games. Let's talk over dinner!! ☎ 71852

Nice Jewish Boy w/Big Shitck
Speak softly but carry a big shitck! 43 look 35, 6'-1", 182#, br/gr, clean-shaven, Marketing Executive, own flat-cooked meals, naked massage, small hotels, art, swim, hike, hope for wonderful life. ☎ 71853

Fil-Men Bi-Curious
Asian bi-men love to meet bi-men Latino/Asian/WGM/ with same interest in sports, changing ideas and walking on the beach. Preferably discreet and honest. ☎ 71854

Affectionate Mature Men
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs ISO affectionate senior men who enjoy lots of deep kissing, holding & cuddling. Poss ltr. facial hair, non-buffed/ husky A+. Not into gay lifestyle or drugs but smoking ok. ☎ 71855

"I Want You!!!"
GBM top 50 seeks GWM btm 50-60 yr old for dating, good sex and poss ltr. Me: many interests, articulate and good lover. You: enjoy wearing Panties (silk, nylons-not drag). Must be able to communicate feelings. Be under 6ft tall. No beard, enjoy recreational smoke and aroma and like to cuddle. ☎ 71869

Latino Men!!
Me GWM, 34, 6', 170lbs, bld hair, blue eyes, romantic at heart who wants to be fucked. Looking for Latino men, any age, who likes movies, travel and trying anything at least once. No drugs. You HIV- me too. ☎ 71856

SF GWM BF Material Looking For
..You? Built, Furry, poz wants great sex with tall, inshape, Furry, mature, oral GWM while getting to know each other. Into sharing fun, dining, dancing, movies, culture, hiking, nude beaches, gym. ☎ 71857

Goodlooking Asian To Date
Attractive Asian 30, 5'8", slim, clean-cut, masculine, nice boy next door seeks similar attractive GWM 30-40 h/wt, std-free, masculine, clean-cut for dating poss. Ltr. ☎ 71868

Husky Hot Huggable GWM
44, 5'9", 185lbs., mustache, S&P/ blue. ISO monogamous ltr with GWM, GLM, GFM, 38-50; enjoys movies, romantic evenings, massage, & being together with sincere special guy. ☎ 71870

Blond Seeks Latins
Goodlooking 37 6ft 195lb with a great body seeks Latins, for good times. All responses answered. ☎ 71871

SEEKING ADVENTURE

White Submissive Young
Total bottom. (European accent) looking for total top(s), groups to submit to yourdesires. Am very obedient, very open minded. Shaved balls, shaved bubble ass, open mouth. You must be under 40. ☎ 71837

Looking For Love Every Time
Fun loving White dude into all escapist thrills, seeking variety of types under 30. Slightly older and more adept at love. Peter. ☎ 71838

Corporal Top Needed
W/M 40 seeks corporal punishment with an experienced top. Push me to and explore my limits. Serious only. Anal and oral o.k. ☎ 71839

Older Asian Wanted
WGM, 50yrs, attractive, healthy, well hung, HIV-, seeks Asian man, 35-45yrs, for mutual oral fun, please be HIV-, height/weight proportional; maybe relationship. ☎ 71840

-Shut-Up And Ride-
WM 37 5'10", 200lb blonde/blue muscle guy wants good looking masculine men to screw. Call anytime. ☎ 71841

Trim Hot Top
Seeks cute Asian bottom. You're cute, poz, reasonably fit. I'm 6ft, 160, passionate, aggressive and 47 y.o. ☎ 71842

Latino And Hispanic Guys
Who are top, masculine, and whose cocks are very horse hung, thick, and hard to fuck my tight hot asshole real good and real hard on a regular basis. Let's talk. ☎ 71843

WGM 64 Lkg For Affectionate 50+
White-Latino- Asian + for sensual touching, kissing, JO and suck times- less body hair+. ☎ 71844

Get Sweaty, Get Naked!
E. Bay daddy, 52, ISO son, 25-35. Let daddy taste your sweaty pits, feet, ass, nuts. Uncut, hairy, ok. ☎ 71858

E. Bay Taken..
Discreet, masculine available some weekends & evenings. I'm attractive, 40, excellent suction. Be 25-45 uncut, Hispanic, Black, Asian +'. Your place.. ☎ 71859

"I'm The Best In The West!!"
It's time to get Real! Let's play and have some fun. I'm the expert Azn bottom dude for you. Love to do everything that we'll both feel happy n satisfied. ☎ 71873

Bum, Dharma Or Otherwise!
Homeless, hairy chest, shaved head, tight behind, 12ee, Anglo-Saxon, light, looking for safe fun, togetherness, or likewise, cockmiking, bondage, either's good! Pleasease? ☎ 71860

Spank Your Butt
Goodlooking topman, 37, 5'11", 170#, work out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71861

"Video Freak"
BM into rimming, fist fucking, vers toys party leather top or bottom need place to play. ☎ 71862

A Midsummer's Night Dream
Poz masculine hung satyr top seeks bawny rugged punk for hours of sexual revelry. Pluses: uninhibited verbal servismen fearless cocksucker, submissive, squirming, rim'n'ride toughman. ☎ 71872

Bottom 2b Tied Tortured N Fukt SM, BD, TT, FF, WS rim CBT VA
humiliation. Boy is 35, docile, maleable and eager to please. Sir is dom, clean, sadistic, sane. ☎ 71874

Your Dick In My Mouth
Clean and healthy senior GWM with no teeth will suck it for bi or GWM. ☎ 71875

Be My First Queer Butthole
Me: Bi WM 40's HIV- never fucked ass. You: short, fit, clean, small waist, slim hips, HIV-, submissive squeezer. You get blindfolded, fucked at your SF place. Safe only. Viagra? ☎ 71876

ZZTop 4 Trim 4 Cuddle, JO, Sleep
GWM, 56, 5'7", 220, long white beard, hairy, glasses, balding, smoker, HIV- seeks trim guy, all ages/races, for cuddles, JO, and possible sleeping partner. No anal action. ☎ 71877

FETISHES

Young Obedient Slave Boy
Searching for master(s) to take me through slave/dog training. Desire to make a good one and total, submission guaranteed. The boy is very boyish and cute. Be under 40. ☎ 71845

Man W/Toe Ring Loves Barefeet
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gdiking East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet & sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 71846

I Need Your Vote For BABC!-
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Nip Buddy- WGM 47yr old stocky 210lb. nip pig and huge erotic nips- brn, brn salt pepper goatee- tattis- piercing smoker- ISO base, musc, nip pig bear daddy for serious nip work outs and growth in mind, smoker A+. Please call. ☎ 71864

Balls!! Huge Balls That Is!!
If you have them and love to have them looked over your way? Mature gentleman can do this for you. ☎ 71878

English Former Headmaster...
Provides corporal punishment to wicked persons. Days ok. in S.F. ☎ 71879

Bottom In For Pride Week?
Older but hung Black WM will pump a mature, masculine guy in his hotel room 6/30 and 7/01/02. Must leave full name. Be serious and experienced, hotel only. ☎ 71880

Teach A Submissive His Place
Otherwise straight WM, 43, 5'10", 195, can be Greek passive (condoms) for alpha male superiors who verbally degrade and piss on him. Heavyset ok. Small groups welcome. External seat considered. ☎ 71881

OTHERS

~Mike From Santa Cruz~
I met you at Daddy's Sunday 6/2 but you were whisked away. Let's try a better introduction. Me- in leather, you- adorable. ☎ 71847

Home Gym Workout Partner
ISO workout partner for 2 or 3 mornings or afternoons per week in private gym (weights, bench, heavy bag). You also wrestle? Box? NHB? Great! 5'8", 142#, wanna bulk up! ☎ 71865

Senior Moments?
Senior bi WM seeks same for occasional lunch or beer to discuss the adventures we've had in life. Plus what we've doing, how to keep our batteries charged up. ☎ 71866

Website Tutor!
Generous WM needs someone to teach me how to use chatrooms, webcams, bulletin boards, personal sections, etc. Strictly business arrangement. ☎ 71867

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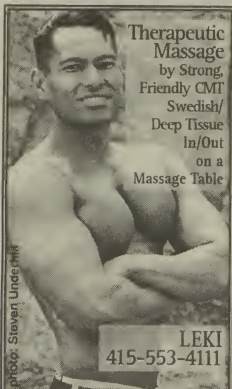


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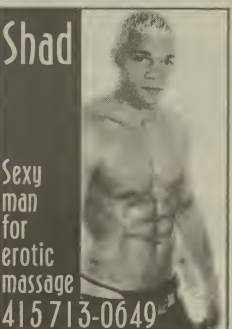
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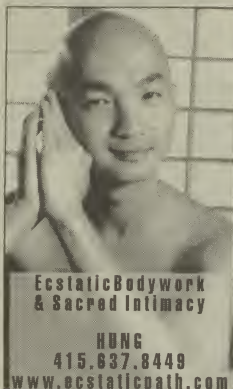
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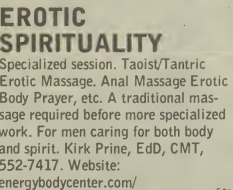
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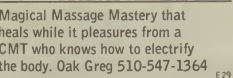
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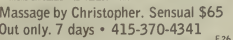
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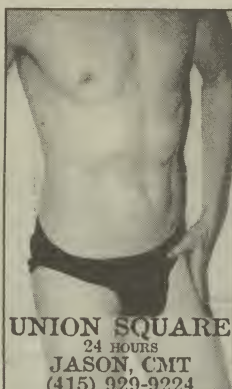
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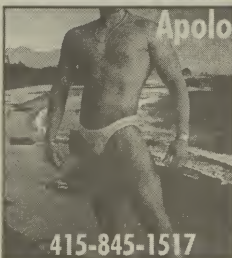
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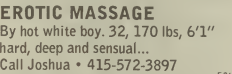
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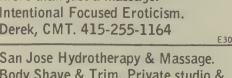
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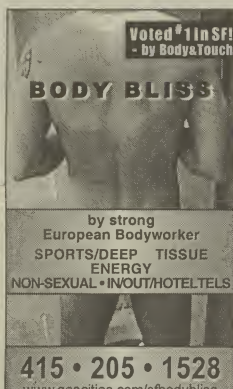
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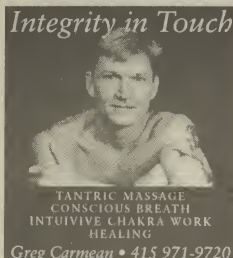


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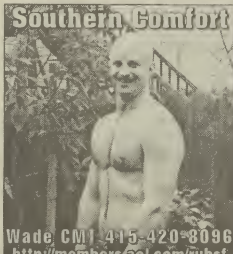
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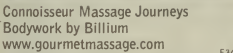
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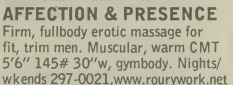
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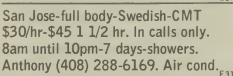
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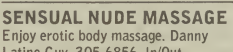
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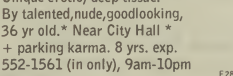
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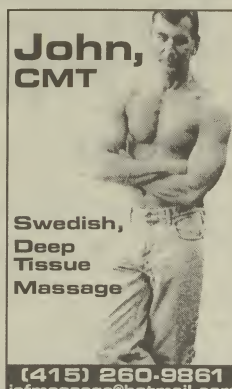
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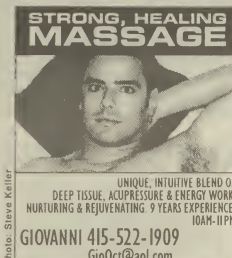
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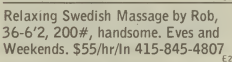
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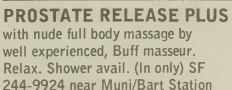
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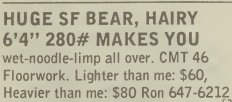
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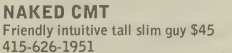
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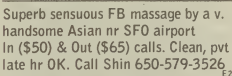
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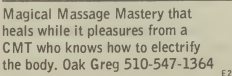
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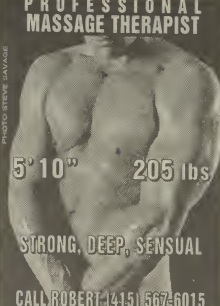


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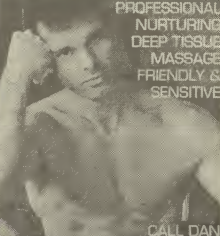


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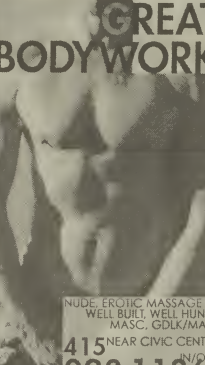
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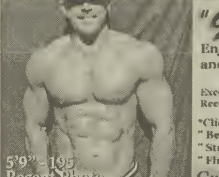
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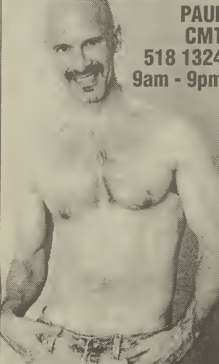
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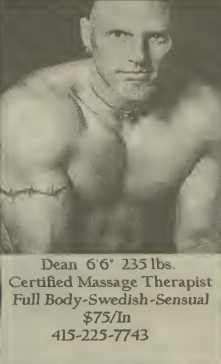
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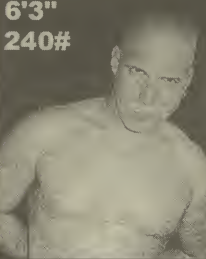
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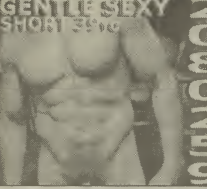
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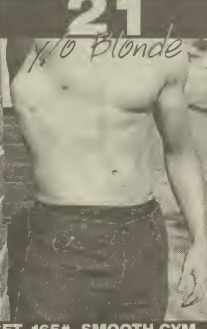
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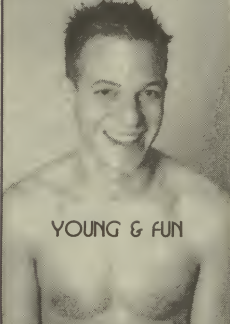
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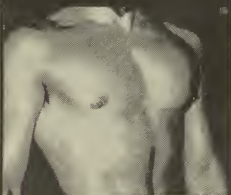
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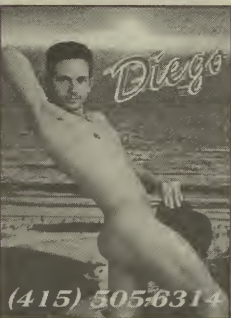
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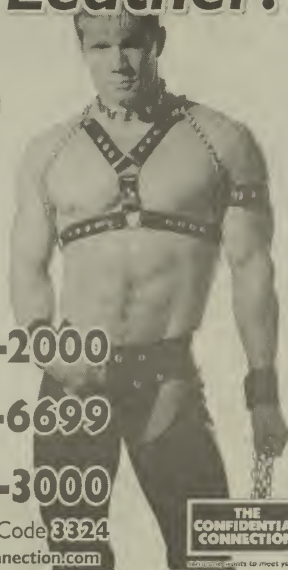
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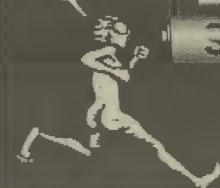
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remain in the closet. Others followed a passion: for sex, art, recreation, invention, or community.

As this year's Pride theme asks revelers to "Be Yourself, Change the World," these business owners are impacting how society views the LGBT community - one customer at a time. We've gathered an eclectic collection of lesbian- and gay-owned businesses (and one that's not but is very gay-friendly) and hope you enjoy their stories.

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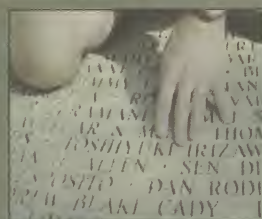


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A grand marshal with fiscal acumen

Treasurer Susan Leal will march with pride

by Cynthia Laird

She has long been a popular part of the San Francisco Pride Parade, drawing lots of cheers from parade-watchers year after year. This year, however, out Latina lesbian and San Francisco Treasurer Susan Leal will be riding in a car with "grand marshal" placards emblazoned on the sides. And she is proud of that. Leal is one of the community grand marshals in the Sunday, June 30 parade.

"I'm happy, thrilled," Leal told the *Bay Area Reporter* of her selection during community balloting earlier this year.

Leal also had nothing but good things to say about the other community grand marshals: transgender activists Christopher Lee and Shawna Virago, and longtime gay activist Hoover Lee. "It's a real warm feeling among us," she said.

Earlier this month, Christopher Lee and Virago hosted a celebratory party at the Lexington Club; Hoover Lee and Leal both attended. While it was a "younger crowd," Leal said she had fun and took in the excitement of the evening.

Leal, 52, handily won re-election to a second four-year term as city treasurer last November with a whopping 87 percent of the vote. Since becoming treasurer in 1998, she has brought her fiscal acumen and intelligence to the office, while continuing to implement socially responsible policies through the city's investments. As treasurer, she serves as the city's banker and investment officer. Her duties also include managing the tax collector's office.

Since her overwhelming re-election victory last year, it's been an open secret that Leal has been thinking about running for mayor next year to replace the term-limited Willie Brown. She told the *B.A.R.* that she's seriously considering a mayoral run. She has met with longtime supporters and advisers and said that she expects to make a decision soon.

Leal has extensive experience in public office. Prior to becoming treasurer, she was a San Francisco supervisor (appointed in 1993 by former Mayor Frank Jordan, she won re-election citywide in 1994) and chaired the powerful Finance Committee. Some of her better-known initiatives during her tenure on the board included co-sponsoring the equal benefits ordinance, implementing San Francisco's red-light runner camera program, and pushing for substance abuse treatment on demand. She's also known for her candor and is not afraid to ask tough questions.

That directness comes through when she discusses city finances.

"I think we have to be very careful in bringing in revenue and also be aggressive where we're not spending it [money] efficiently," she said.

"The economy of the city is always of concern," she added. "How well the city does equates to whether we can 'buy' services we need, whether it be health, parks, or Muni.

"Is it picking up? Slowly. But I think we have to be very careful



Treasurer Susan Leal waved to the crowd during last year's Pride Parade.

and manage the resources we have and be careful about our spending because it's going to be a slow turnaround."

Despite the cuts in the proposed city budget that was unveiled by Brown at the beginning of the month, Leal said that in terms of revenue from investments, the city is doing well.

"We're still doing socially responsible investing. Our return [on investments] is still one of the best in the state," she said. "Our collection of delinquent revenue is one of the best. We've continually been ramping it up."

By that, Leal was referring to revenue recently collected from off-street parking lots. The city picked up a \$1 million settlement in the spring after her office received a judgment against the owner of the lot.

Leal has made the treasurer's office more customer-friendly, with the implementation of a city payment center, a "one-stop shop" for city transactions such as transit passes, water bills, and passports. She spearheaded the city's e-commerce initiative that was recently named one of the top e-government projects nationwide, and she ended the city's banking monopoly through competitive bidding.

A proud native

A San Francisco native, Leal graduated from Presentation High School in 1967 and the University of California, Berkeley in 1971, where she earned a degree in economics. She received her juris doctorate from UC Berkeley's Boalt Law School and then took some time off, working odd jobs, including a stint as a landscaper.

"That's a glorified way of saying I pulled weeds and trimmed hedges," she laughed.

After that, she moved to Washington, D.C., where she served as counsel to the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. She returned to California and became a senior consultant to the state Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, and then served as vice president of a national healthcare consulting firm.

In terms of San Francisco's LGBT community, Leal said that this has been a good year, so far. She cited the opening of the LGBT Community Center as a very positive step. She also noted Supervisor Mark Leno's victory in the Democratic primary for the 13th Assembly District, the blossoming of

the Rainbow Adult Community Housing organization for LGBT seniors, and the ongoing mental health services provided by New Leaf. The community and state have also helped stabilize Positive Resource Center, which helps people with HIV/AIDS navigate the maze of securing benefits or employment.

"There have been a lot of good things," she said.

As for riding in the parade on Sunday, Leal will have friends and family in her contingent. Her longtime partner, Susan Hirsch, will likely not ride in the car, Leal said, but will walk alongside, talking with people along the way. ▼

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Gay Asian to lead Pride Parade

Hoover Lee proud of his accomplishments

by Matthew S. Bajko

While he likes to think of himself as a "behind the scenes" type of guy, Hoover Lee will be front and center on Sunday as one of this year's Pride Parade grand marshals.

Taking a lead role is nothing new for Lee. He has been a trailblazer in the fight for greater acceptance and visibility of queer Asian and Pacific Islanders in both the gay and straight community.

"I am out in the Asian community. I build bridges with the straight Asian community," said the 64-year-old Lee, who came to San Francisco in 1977.

The gay Chinese Hawaiian man, who has been a human rights advocate and political leader in San Francisco for the past three decades, was a pioneering member of the Association of Lesbian and Gay Asians. Lee also was one of the founders of Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, for which he co-chaired the first gay Asian contingent in the San Francisco Chinese New Year's Parade.

For the Pride Parade this Sunday, June 30, Lee has planned a large contingent to march with him to represent the diversity and different cultures within the API



Grand marshal Hoover Lee

community.

Two Polynesian women will be flag-bearers, one carrying the American flag, the other the rainbow flag. They will be followed by a gold lion and a silver lion pair to symbolize good luck.

The entourage will then be composed of 12 gongs, drums, and cymbals with dancers representing all people of color. Joining Lee in his car will be two Tongan men who will be blowing on conk shells.

"I hope to represent the diversified community of Asian and Pacific Islanders, and even my straight friends to represent them because this is all-inclusive," said Lee, who works as a supervisor

with Muni.

A member of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Lee helped to organize the Asian Pacific AIDS Task Force and San Francisco Royal Courts. He has been involved in numerous political and educational campaigns over the years.

For his service to the community, Lee received a Cable Car Award as "Man of the Year" and was honored as an "Unsung Hero" by the National Organization of Chinese Americans. The Asian Pacific Democratic Club named Lee a "Living Treasure."

It is not just political organizing that drives Lee. He is also a performance artist, appearing as Puhi the Clown as various shows and benefits. He also sings with the GAP Men's Chorus and dances with Bay Area hula companies.

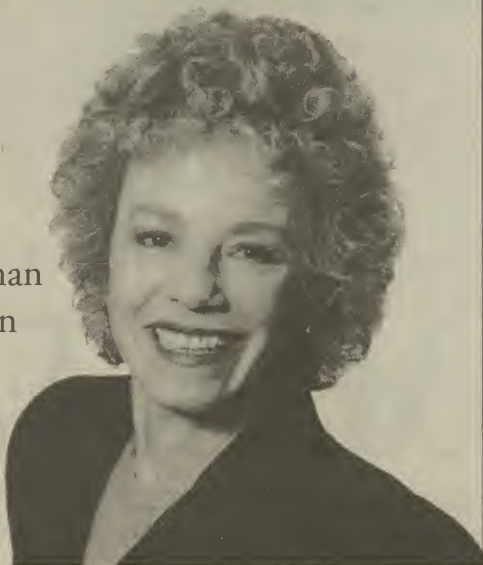
For all the work he has done in fighting homophobia within the API community, on Sunday Lee also will highlight how the fight is not over. As he travels up Market Street, at a designated point he plans to stop his contingent and present a lei to his partner of 30 years, who remains in the closet.

"He is not a U.S. citizen and if he was not in the closet it might make it difficult for him," said Lee. "He is older and I have to respect that. While he will not be in the parade with me, I know he is there for me." ▼

Let us celebrate ourselves
and be ourselves and
change the world.

We are on our way-
AB25 and beyond

-Assemblywoman
Carole Migden



READER ESSAY

Family values: Partners attend reunion in Ozarks

by Paul D. Hufstедler

It was my partner Trey's idea that we should attend my family's reunion in rural Missouri this year. Together, as a couple. He's always coming up with daring ideas that stretch me, like coming all of the way out of the closet with my family.

"What if some of our more conservative relatives don't like the idea of me showing up with my partner?" I asked my Aunt Virginia, the prim ex-school teacher who hosts the gathering of the clan in her living room and lawn.

She did not hesitate.

"We'll just ignore them," she chirped. At 89, Aunt Virginia is deft at neutralizing all excuses for not attending her family potlucks. Thus heartened by her iron-willed support, we booked our flight and rental car. It was finally time to challenge the unspoken "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in my family.

As the road south from St. Louis narrows, it becomes punctuated with churches. Church of the Nazarene, Church of God, Church of Christ, Church of God in Christ. And of course, Baptists. Free Will Baptists, Gospel Baptists, General Baptists. (Specific Baptists apparently need not apply for membership there.) Who knew there were so many subtle differences? Do they all despise the sin, but love the sinner? Or is that just the Free Will sect?

As the road narrows, do the minds likewise narrow? Or is it my own mind that has become closed to changes in heartland people in the 21st century? We sensed something might have recently shifted in fundamental attitudes toward gays. There was only one way to find out — go, and be ourselves.

It is noon and 85 breezeless degrees as Trey and I approach the Current River and the Ollar family reunion in our air-conditioned Buick. The air is liquid with humidity. Snowy white puffs from cottonwood trees drift down on the scene. This is the "warm up," the first of two family reunions on this weekend. We arrive bearing bar-

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'America's Darlings' are ready to ride

Christopher Lee and Shawna Virago

by Zak Szymanski

If there's one thing both Christopher Lee and Shawna Virago want the queer community to know, it's that they don't take their titles as Pride Parade grand marshals lightly.

The self-described Pride outsiders – who ran a grand marshal campaign as “America's Little Darlings” – garnered the most votes in the recent history of grand marshal elections, and plan to use their visibility to represent those on the fringes of the LGBT community. On Sunday, June 30, the punk rock transgender artist-activists will ride along Market Street in a convertible, flanked by a variety of friends and supporters from the trans/genderqueer, people of color, music, and lefty communities.

“We're hoping to create a little window for leftist political messages that are normally censored by corporate influences on Pride,” said Virago. “There will be voices against the phony war on terrorism, the bombing in Afghanistan, and state violence against trans people. I also want to make it clear that Pride for me is about the legacy of Stonewall, which was led by a lot of trans people of color.



“America's Little Darlings” Christopher Lee, left, and Shawna Virago are grand marshals in the Pride Parade.

And as a white transgender person, I have benefited from all the work done by people of color.”

Virago does, however, believe in the duality of her grand marshal role, and she plans to make her day in the spotlight as fun as it is political.

“I will probably wear a mini-

skirt in the parade, and I'll wear crotchless fishnet stockings for the social events I have to do later, which will make it a lot easier to get down to business,” she said. “I think this grand marshal thing should be all about good politics from an in-your-face queer per-

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READER ESSAY

Tale of two cities

by Lewis DeSimone

When I lived in Boston, celebrating gay Pride was a political act. Walking in the parade every June seemed to me as revolutionary as spilling tea into the harbor. In a town whose Puritan legacy was still alive and well, the sight of thousands of hand-holding homosexuals put the city's liberal reputation to the test – and it didn't always pass. Every year, a contingent of Bible thumpers stood on the sidelines of the parade to proclaim to us our sins and the fiery accommodations that awaited us in hell. And every year, we passed by them, our mere footsteps proclaiming a defiant response. We were ourselves, and each year there were more of us out there, and the world changed – gradually but steadily, it changed.

The world I found in San Francisco was so changed it might have been another world altogether. In San Francisco, where gay Pride differs from every other day of the year only in its sheer volume, the celebration isn't so political: it's primarily, and rightly, a celebration – a reminder of the blessings we receive all year long. Now on that day in June, I celebrate the freedom this city takes for granted, a freedom won through the courage of trailblazers like Harvey Milk. I celebrate the joy of liberated self-expression. And most of all, I celebrate my community. Every time I visit another corner of America, I soon go into a kind of withdrawal, and I get on the return flight with an insatiable craving to be among my people once again – in a place where rainbow flags are not just for holidays, where politicians pay more than lip service to gay people (indeed, where half the politicians are gay people), where there's no need to hide, no cause to even consider it. I celebrate a place where, in the tragically prescient words of Harvey Milk, the closet doors have been all but destroyed.

Sometimes I feel almost guilty for being here, so far from the struggle. In this paradise, it's all too easy to look down upon the places we've left behind, to criticize the Will Trumans of the world for their measured steps. It seems like the hard work is being done elsewhere – in places where being yourself doesn't change the world so much as get you tied to a fence and killed. But then I remind myself what San Francisco represents to gay people everywhere. I knew it when I still lived in a cramped closet in Boston: this is the promised land, where the dream of gay liberation is made manifest.

And by nurturing that dream, by keeping it alive for the youth of Massachusetts or Louisiana or Wyoming, we are all changing the world. We're proving that it's possible that a gay community can succeed, that it can live in harmony with the mainstream without forsaking its own culture, its own ideals. Every day, simply by being who we are, we all change the world. ▼

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**2002 Pride Parade Grand Marshall
Treasurer Susan Leal**

Organization grand marshal

LGBT center works to serve everyone



LGBT Community Center Executive Director Brian Cheu.

by Joe Dignan

Hanging in the executive director's office of San Francisco's new LGBT Community Center on Market Street, is a painting of the Fallon Building, the 1894 Queen Anne Victorian that makes up part of the center. The painting, which covers an entire wall of the office, is by John Wullbrandt, one of the preservationists who fought the center's board and its architects when the board initially voted to demolish the Victorian in 1997. The board wanted to use the lot to extend the center's modernist facade — which the preservationists had called "hyper-masculine"

— all the way to the corner of Octavia Street.

The preservationists formed a committee, the Friends of 1800 — the address of the Victorian — to fight the demolition of the building that they said was an important site in San Francisco's gay and lesbian history.

When the contractors finally broke ground for the new building two years later, the preservationists had persuaded the center to keep the old building, and got it designated a San Francisco landmark.

"I guess that the painting being here is symbolic," said Brian Cheu, a Columbia-trained lawyer, who is the center's new executive director.

The windows of Cheu's office look out over Market Street from the second floor of the old Victorian part of the new center. It's two weeks before Pride, and a rainbow flag, one of the hundreds up and down the street, snaps in the wind on a lamppost just outside.

Sitting at a small conference table in front of the large painting, Cheu waves at it, a smile on his face, "When the fight was over, he gave it to the center."

Cheu leans forward. "Let me try and say this in non-nonprofit speak. I see the center as a forum for dialogue, discussion, and debate — where communities meet."

"What I mean is, wouldn't it be great to take that arguing and focus it? We'll have a better and

stronger community because we've listened to each other."

The LGBT Community Center was chosen as this year's organization grand marshal in the Pride Parade by people who voted in community balloting.

Cheu said that when he was approached to run the center, his friends told him not to take the job. "San Francisco has a bad reputation," he said. "It's incredibly divisive."

But Cheu, who previously served as executive director of the Lavender Youth Information and Recreation Center, took the job.

San Francisco's new community center opened in a city that already has most of the services offered by centers in other major cities. Los Angeles' center, founded in 1971, has an emphasis on AIDS services and is the nation's largest. New York's, founded in 1983, has the most diverse programming, with an emphasis on public policy. Both of those places grew up with the problems they were created to solve.

"We've got all these organizations already," said Cheu, rattling off a string of acronyms. "But the center will be a place where everybody can come together."

San Francisco's new center isn't its first. There have been at least three in the city's history — the earliest on Sixth Street at Jessie Alley, opened in 1966 as part of SIR, the Society for Individual Rights. Two others on Page

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Golden Gate Business Association members at a recent mixer. From left, Gary Marshall, Melinda Phillips, President Jerry Becerra, Madison Kilpatrick III, and Jim Cherry.

Gay businesses change to meet new demands

GGBA helps members

by Matthew S. Bajko

When it began in 1974, the Golden Gate Business Association was the nation's first business organization founded by gay and lesbian entrepreneurs. For more than 28 years, GGBA has been a dynamic and active voice for the Bay Area's gay, lesbian, and supportive business and professional community.

"Gay business in the San Francisco area is a significant part of the local economy. On a more na-

tional front, what is called the gay American consumer is the largest market segment after the African American consumer block. In terms of per capita spending, gay America has the highest of any group," said GGBA board member Robert Sokol.

But with the new millennium has come new challenges facing queer-owned businesses. No longer are they the dominant force within the community, with numerous national and multinational corporations courting the "pink" dollar.

next page ►

nightout

It's an all-out, outrageous evening of gay and lesbian drama, comedy, and what some insist on calling sophisticated entertainment.



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East Bay LGBT chamber is on a new mission

by Cynthia Laird

In 1992, the East Bay Business and Professional Alliance was formed as a way for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender business owners to connect in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Today, 10 years later, it is in the process of reexamining itself and expanding its vision to help more of its members and to become an influential force in the region.

"The Alliance is in a very exciting place right now," board President and out lesbian Cynthia Leitman told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We've established a new vision and a three- to five-year plan."

That vision is all about increasing visibility, Leitman said during a recent interview.

An LGBT business organization is more than just a self-serving place for members, Leitman, known to most as Cindie, explained.

She and the board have developed EBBPA's new vision. Leitman noted that one of the most important areas of any community's strength is the strength of its business community.

"If a community's businesses are strong and thriving, then those businesses can serve as a base for increasing the financial well-being of the entire community. Such businesses can employ people and give to community resources," she said.

Leitman, a certified financial planner who owns a financial planning business (Cynthia Leitman, CFP) in Oakland, is nearing the end of her second year as board president. She has been involved with EBBPA for years, and previously served as vice president of programs and president-elect.

EBBPA has about 150 members now. Member businesses are diverse and spread throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties, though the vast majority are in Oakland and Berkeley.

"Right now most businesses are single-owner service-type businesses," Leitman said.

Those include financial planners, chiropractors, and therapists. Other members represent



Cynthia Leitman.

industries as diverse as automotive and home repair, public relations and veterinary medicine, and art galleries and real estate. Members also include attorneys, consultants, and restaurants.

"We'd love to get more retail, more mature businesses, and businesses with more employees," Leitman noted.

EBBPA members — like their straight counterparts in chambers of commerce — hold monthly open houses and have a directory. Additionally, Leitman said the group offers "Leads" sessions, which are sort of like mini classes. Ten to 15 members in different occupations meet twice a month for four months.

"They learn how to do what we call a '30-second commercial,'" she said. In other words, the people learn how to succinctly explain their business in a short amount of time. Participants also learn business development skills and give presentations that are critiqued by the others in the class. And they act as marketers, sending potential referrals to one another.

Another benefit of membership is professional development groups. In this setting, owners of similar businesses get together and talk about financial and other issues that affect them.

EBBPA has had a presence at street fairs in the area for several

years. Members have staffed a booth at San Francisco's Pride celebration and will be at this year's event as well, on Sunday, June 30. Additionally, the organization will have a booth at the East Bay Gay Pride event in September and the popular Solano Stroll festival on Sunday, September 8. That event spans 1.25 miles of the tree-lined street from The Alameda in Berkeley to San Pablo Avenue in Albany.

EBBPA also has a Web site that contains its directory and other information.

One of the challenges Leitman has faced during her tenure as board president is finding members willing to serve on the all-volunteer board. After putting out a successful call, however, the board is currently at 12 members, the largest since EBBPA's early days.

"We're in the process of professionalizing the organization. When an organization starts, it's small. Now, in order to achieve its mission, it has to grow and we're at this critical point now where we need to be this big," she explained, putting her arms in a large circle. "We need a more formal management kind of structure to give us a platform from which we can go out and do our thing."

As Leitman reflected on her two years as president, she seemed satisfied with what has been accomplished. But as with any organization, there's more work ahead to promote LGBT businesses. And she's happy with the fact that there is a lavender chamber of commerce in the East Bay.

"How many places are there where as business people, you can socialize and network and be comfortable and be who you are?" she asked. "Now it [EBBPA] has to offer members more — more skills development and more networking."

"Let us think of the Alliance as a cornerstone of not only thriving East Bay LGBT businesses, but as a cornerstone of a thriving East Bay community at large." ▼

For more info on EBBPA, visit www.lavenderchamber.org or call (510) 287-2571.

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Gay businesses

◀ previous page

And as the gay community wins more equal rights within mainstream society, gay businesses are fighting to tap into the mainstream marketplace. Yet while attitudes change toward homosexuality, queer business owners still face obstacles in breaking down barriers and reaching straight customers.

These issues will be the main topic of discussion today (Thursday, June 27) at the GGBA's first Pride luncheon, where gay and lesbian merchants and entrepreneurs will listen to a seminar called "IN(side) & OUT: LGBT Business in the New Millennium."

"During this time of celebration, it is as important to recognize our accomplishments and to nurture the development and strength of our progress in the business sector as it is to applaud our advances in social and political arenas," said GGBA President Jerry Becerra. "Lesbian- and gay-owned and operated businesses continue to emerge as a promi-

nent part of the economic landscape, both in the Bay Area and nationally. Equally important is the recognition of the gay and lesbian consumer market, which, in these challenging economic times, cannot be ignored by any business, whether inside or outside our community."

As queer businesses look to expand and thrive in today's economy, they face various issues such as marketing to the gay and lesbian audience from both inside and outside the community; LGBT-owned small businesses and how they can compete in the wider marketplace; and what makes up the "gay" dollar.

"It is one thing for me as a gay businessman to be marketing to other gay people. It is another thing to look at major corporations and see how do they recognize the gay market and how do they successfully market to it," said Sokol.

How to reverse this market trend so gay businesses can enter into mainstream markets is of utmost concern to smaller gay-owned businesses, especially in today's weakened economy. While they have successfully penetrated

the gay market, many gay business owners are looking to build a straight customer base in order to increase profits.

"I do want the straight business but a lot of the time we don't get it," said Soutrou, the owner of a gay tour company in San Francisco.

In order to attract more straight customers, Soutrou dropped the word gay and created a separate Web site to market to heterosexuals.

"I still don't get a lot of response. I don't know why," he said.

The organizers of the gay business luncheon hope today's discussion will find some answers.

"We wish to look at how can gays and lesbians compete in the broader market place," said Sokol.

Today's luncheon takes place at 1 p.m. at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, 450 Powell Street, near Union Square. Tickets are \$55 for the general public and \$45 for GGBA members. ▼

For more information about GGBA, visit its Web site at www.ggba.com or call (415) 864-2159.

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Good Vibrations still shaking things up

Sex shop celebrates 25 years in business

by Zak Szymanski

It is safe to say that the world never would have witnessed or enjoyed the revolution in sex shops and sexuality marketing without Good Vibrations. The renowned retailer at 1210 Valencia Street – known for its innovative concept that shopping for such pleasures need not occur in dark, cagey spaces – is credited with empowering women to take their desires seriously, expanding the horizons of couples and singles alike, and helping to launch similar stores around the country. It marked its 25th anniversary in March of this year.

But there are many other perks about Good Vibrations that remain lesser known: the fact that it has been a part of a worker-owned cooperative since 1990, for instance, or the important reality that it conducts extensive trainings to the community and its workers on the needs of people of all ages, genders, sexualities, and abilities.

"Our classes and workshops for the public cover everything from bondage to massage techniques," explained Dr. Carol Queen, the company's staff sexologist. "And our in-house training gets all of our employees up to speed so that they can always meet customers where they're at, even if they have a different sexual profile from their own."

Also noteworthy is the fact that the retail store is actually a part of a much larger company known as Open Enterprises, which oversees Good Vibes, its online and mail-order business, publishing houses known as Down There Press and Passion Press, and a video production company called Sex Positive Productions. Open Enterprises operates out of an office on Howard Street in the South of Market District. The San Francisco retail store has been in its current location since 1989, and an East Bay store opened in the 1990s.

Of course, the company is also hailed as a fantastic place to work, particularly for LGBT people, who make up a large percentage of the more than 70 worker-owners and 120 employees.

"Good Vibes didn't start out as a queer business," said Queen, detailing the shop's early days in 1977 as a creation by sexuality activist and artist Joani Blank, who wanted to give women a clean, well-lit place to buy vibrators.

"It started out as a women's business, which everyone assumed to be queer, which helped to attract lesbians and bisexuals. And pretty early on, men started to poke their noses in and say, 'We don't like those other spaces, can we shop with you?' The store approached sex in an intelligent, healthy way, which attracted people of all genders and orientations. So the queer seeds were planted early. And this crossed over when-

ever it was time to hire new staff."

Good Vibes and Open Enterprises employees are often famous in their own right: Queen, along with lesbian porn duo Jackie Strano and Shar Rednour, produced the now-classic video *Bend Over Boyfriend*, a best-selling tape geared toward female-on-male strap-on sex. And the store has also harvested the likes of many artists and writers, from the dyke icon Fairy Butch to *The Survivor's Guide to Sex* author Staci Haines, to the transgender hip-hop poet Marcus Rene Van.

And while the business is most comfortable with the "pansexual, pan-gendered" label, "What's really evident," said Queen, "is that this kind of perspective could only happen in a queer city like San Francisco."

So how does one score a paying position at the queer sex mecca?

"We look for sex education, sex positivity, or anti-violence work in employee backgrounds," said Queen. "This is one of the few 'regular' jobs that appeals to sex workers. And this is also the type of job that attracts a lot of artists and musicians, where your co-workers will respect your having to take a day off for a gig."

With the downturn in the economy, Good Vibes, like businesses everywhere, has had to plan for the future, but as Pride approaches, and the need for appendages and devices soars, so



Customers check out merchandise at Good Vibrations' SF store.

should sales.

Queen, who herself served as a grand marshal of last year's Pride Parade, said that her own pride comes from being able to do the work she does in such a supportive city.

"This store could not have

been founded," said Queen, "in any other city." ▼

Good Vibrations is located on Valencia Street near 23rd and can be reached at (415) 974-8980 or www.goodvibes.com.

A commitment to justice is needed

by Penny Nixon

San Francisco LGBT Pride's mantra – "Be yourself. Change the world." The world definitely needs change but I don't know if "being ourselves" will do it. Sure, I'm proud of my lesbian identity, but does that identity make me a better human being? Have I let "being myself" – the experience of being queer in a heterosexual world – connect me to those who are also deemed "other" by society, those who need civil and human rights?

This Pride Month was brought into sharp relief in a bittersweet moment at a community memorial service in the Castro for openly gay police Officer Jon Cook. When the highest ranking officer present, Assistant Chief Earl Sanders, presented the flag that flew over Mission Station to Jared Strawderman, Jon's partner, it became clear that life had changed as queers and cops came together to honor a gay cop "being himself."

The LGBT film festival, with its breadth of representation of queerness and the multiplicities of identities, invited us to see and feel our connection. The films helped us remember that "being yourself" means so much more than sexual orientation or gender identity. They reminded us that we see each other and ourselves through the lens of race, class, gender, political affiliation, and spirituality. When the film *In the Name of Allah* played a packed house, film director Parvez Sharma asked everyone to say, "We're here. We're queer. We're Muslim." It didn't quite work the first time, so he tried it again until the theater echoed with these words. I knew what he was trying to do, as uncomfortable as it made people. He was appealing to our common experience of "gayness," of "otherness" to help us understand our common experience of humanity.

Last month a group of us spoke out against anti-Semitic



Reverend Penny Nixon

hate crimes in the Bay Area. We who have suffered at hate's violent hands must be at the front of the line speaking out against injustice, against bigotry, and against violence. As a religious leader, as a Christian, as a lesbian, and as a part of humanity's intricate web, I know this: When you hate a Jew, you hate me. When you hate a Muslim, you hate me. When you hate, you destroy all of our hopes of living in a world where each of our children and us can flourish.

In November, the Metropolitan Community Foundation will honor Coretta Scott King.

"Being ourselves" will only change the world if we, like Mrs. King and so many before us, have a persistent commitment to justice, peace, and social change. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We are all tied together in a single garment of destiny. ... An inescapable network of mutuality ... I can never be what I ought to be until you are allowed to be what you ought to be." ▼

The Reverend Dr. G. Penny Nixon is the senior pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, A House of Prayer for All People. She is also an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade.



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It's the whitewater, baby!

Mariah Wilderness Expeditions offers rafting trips for all

by Cynthia Laird

Donna Hunter has succeeded where many women do not.

The out lesbian owner of Mariah Wilderness Expeditions has made her mark and is established as one of the top whitewater rafting companies on the South Fork of the American River, outside of Placerville in California's Gold Country. All of the other companies that have operations on the river are owned by men.

Hunter formed Mariah in 1982. The company is based in Point Richmond, in the East Bay. "I continue to be the only

woman-owned whitewater company and one of the larger companies on the South Fork of the American River," she told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a recent interview.

Hunter still battles the false perception that hers is more of a hobby than a business.

"It's unbelievably common for large numbers of people to think it's a little hobby," she said. "I employ 30 guides a season and a staff of four in the office year-round."

The season, on the American River, is from April through September.

For those who want to camp out under the stars in the Gold Country, Mariah offers two 2-day

trips specifically for gays and lesbians. People can act out their rugged explorer fantasies paddling through raging rapids, then spend the summer evening "roughing it" at Mariah's beautiful wooded riverside campground complete with hot showers and volleyball.

There's a two-day South Fork American River gay/lesbian trip scheduled for July 13-14. Hunter explained that the South Fork American River has Class II-III rapids, making it ideal for beginners, with rafting and swimming in a relaxing atmosphere. Included in the \$285 price (plus 7 percent river use fee) are tent-camping on Friday and Saturday nights and two days of rafting on Saturday and Sunday. Five meals, special wine-tasting, and live music on the river are also included. Wetsuit and other equipment rentals, including tents, are not included.

Another trip for gays and lesbians is scheduled for August 16-17 on the Middle Fork American River, which has Class II-IV rapids. That trip is billed for beginners and those with some whitewater experience.

Hunter just had her popular sold-out women's whitewater raft trip earlier this month.

Other trips are for anyone, gay or straight, and take place daily. Trips range from a half-day to two-days. The minimum age for South Fork trips is 7 years old, making it a great family getaway.

Hunter has had more than 21

years of experience in the business and 100,000 happy guests, according to her brochure. She takes about 4,000 customers on trips each year. In addition to trips for individuals, Mariah also offers corporate trips.

A challenge for Hunter has been working to help lead the industry into professional standing.

Another challenge goes back to the "hobby" myth.

"One of the hardest things to overcome in the gay and lesbian community and in the women's community is that I'm a major outfitter, period. There's the perception that it's this little company and people are blown away. The South Fork operation is huge."

One of her major competitors is well-known for his large operation. "But he doesn't do gay and lesbian trips," Hunter pointed out.

There are about 40 companies on the South Fork and about 20 others around the state.

As for the rewards of running her own business, Hunter said that one is being able to do something she loves. A former management worker in the social service field, she's been an avid whitewater rafter for decades. She doesn't go on the trips with customers, instead providing ground support. She enjoys whitewater rafting with friends and does a lot of sailing.

Hunter said that Mariah hasn't been hurt much by the recent dip in tourism following September 11 and the dot-com crash. Rather, she



Donna Hunter

said that last summer's energy crisis was much worse for business.

"There were problems with PG&E," she said, referring to the water levels in the river controlled by electricity companies. "We didn't have water [in the river] in the middle of the week."

The one exception, she said, is Mariah's international program, which did suffer in the aftermath of September 11. Mariah offers some international trips; a tropical rafting and beach adventure trip to Costa Rica is planned for next February 3-11. It's for men and women.

Hunter is proud of her company and proud of the jobs she provides for others. Most of all, Hunter said, she's proud that she did it herself, and didn't need a man to help her. ▼

For more information on Mariah Wilderness Expeditions, call 1-800-462-7424 or visit www.gay-adventure-travel.com.

Sexual rights are human rights

by Surina Khan

LGBT people are under attack in every country in this world. In Egypt, brutal arrests, allegations of torture, and hard labor sentences and sensationalized trials of suspected homosexuals have become a regular occurrence. In the U.S., Jerry Falwell blamed lesbians and feminists, among others, for the attacks on the World Trade Center and sodomy laws remain on the books in more than 15 states. In Honduras, gay men and transgender people have been targeted for harassment in San Pedro Sula, the country's industrial center and second largest city, after Honduras' new president, Ricardo Maduro, announced a "zero tolerance for crime and delinquency" program in January. Bar raids, arbitrary detention, and expulsion from the downtown area have become regular occurrences in the lives of Honduran transvestites and gay men. In Sri Lanka the National Press Council—a government body—called lesbianism "an act of sadism."

Sexual rights activists around the world are responding to these attacks with courage and conviction using grassroots organizing, political education, and international human rights mechanisms like the United Nations to effect positive and progressive change.

At the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, we work with these courageous activists in every region of the world. Our mission is to secure the full enjoyment of human rights for all people based on sexual orientation or expression, gender identity or expression and/or HIV status. We join activists around the world in successfully challenging conservative forces of oppression.

It's important for all of us to work together so we can all live with dignity and integrity. We must respond to human rights violations around the world, whether they occur here in the U.S. or elsewhere in the world. One such case is the ongoing plight of the "Cairo 52." The 52 men were arrested on or around the night of May 10 or 11, 2001. That night, police raided the Queen Boat discotheque in Cairo; other police pickups followed in the next days. The 52 were tor-



IGLHRC director Surina Khan

tured, and jailed until their trial. In November 2001, 29 of the men were acquitted and 23 were sentenced to 3-5 years of hard labor.

Last month Egypt took a small step toward justice. On May 22, Egyptian officials hinted at a show of presidential leniency when Egyptian President Mubarak annulled 50 out of the 52 verdicts, including the guilty findings in 21 cases—and, shockingly, all 29 innocent verdicts. The presidential decision sent the 50 cases back to prosecutors, who must now decide whether to retry the defendants.

All of us must urge pressure on Egypt to drop all charges and free all the defendants—and on U.S. President George W. Bush not to let this half-measure masquerade as justice. IGLHRC is encouraged whenever the unjustly imprisoned are freed. Yet Egypt has tendered only cosmetic change. It offers nothing to dozens of others who have been arrested or convicted for consensual homosexual conduct. It threatens the "Cairo 52" defendants with new indignities and new abuses. In the end, even more men could be forced to serve prison time.

This Pride Month, let's take pride in working for global change. Do your part. Go to www.iglhrc.org and respond to our call for action to support the men in Cairo. ▼

Surina Khan is exec. director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. She is an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade.

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Tour guides show off city's gay past

The Castro and Polk Gulch shine in hands of Hailey and Sountru

by Matthew S. Bajko

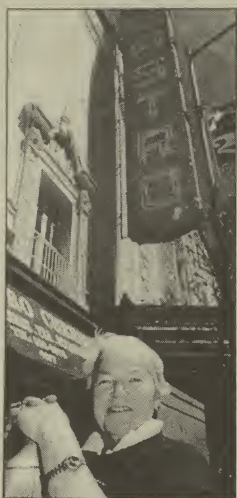
Turning their love for San Francisco and its colorful queer history into successful businesses, Trevor Hailey and Sountru have helped countless visitors explore the city's gay past.

Making sure not to step on each other's toes, the two tour operators have created their own unique explorations of the city for tourists and locals looking to learn more about their hometown. Hailey is known for her "Cruisin' the Castro" tour, a four-hour walking tour of the gay district from a historical perspective.

"I do gay and lesbian history starting through the Gold Rush and coming up to today," said Hailey, who has led people through the Castro for 14 years now. "What I try to accomplish for gay and lesbian people is teach them their history. We don't know our history. If you don't know your history, you are doomed to repeat it."

Sountru, who goes by only one name, caters to Barbaryphiles, the lovers of Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* books and miniseries, with his "Tale of the City" tour. He also has his own gay tour that explores more of the Polk Gulch and South of Market areas, leaving the Castro to Hailey.

"I have lived here 17 years and always loved showing people the city," said Sountru, who began his



Trevor Hailey, a popular Castro figure, has resumed her walking tours of the neighborhood.

San Francisco Gay Tours five years ago.

On the Tale of the City tour, Sountru leads his guests to all the sites mentioned in the book and then to the sites used for the television series.

"Tales is my number one, most popular tour. It is big with Europeans who follow the books like a cult," said Sountru, who devel-

oped the Pink Triangle Traffic School concept, which he later sold.

While he has invited Maupin to accompany him on the tour, Sountru said the author has yet to take him up on the offer.

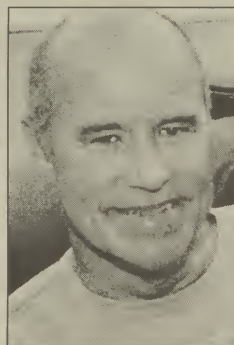
"I have e-mailed him but I have never heard back from him," he said. "He is so busy. *Tales of the City* has taken on a life of its own."

With his Web site at www.sfgaytours.com and through associations with gay bed and breakfast operators and travel agents, Sountru has built up his business. He also has expanded his services to include being a gay "wedding" planner.

From selecting a site, a romantic place to stay, and a tour through town, Sountru will produce the entire event for the domestic partners. While he had hoped to attract a more local clientele with the commitment ceremonies, he said it has only increased his European-based business.

"I get a lot of lesbians from Europe. I hardly do anyone local," he said. "I think what happened is Vermont made it legal-ish, so some people are waiting for it to be more legal."

Hailey also works closely with bed and breakfast operators and local merchants in the Castro in order to network and increase each others' business. As she strolls through the Castro with her guests, Hailey said she aims to break the silence about gay histo-



Sountru, of SF Gay Tours

ry, a topic most have never heard discussed.

"I want them to get an education that they have not been given the respect of having. Particularly in the past, all people knew about homosexuals they only knew from stereotypical stories," said Hailey, who was an early volunteer with the city's GLBT Historical Society of Northern California. "This is an opportunity to educate people about information that in the past has been totally unavailable."

And her tours are a chance to show the straight people she leads through the Castro that being gay is more than just walking in a yearly parade or hanging out in a bar.

"I try to give them a taste of not only the commercial part of the neighborhood but also the residential part of the neighborhood," said Hailey. "People get to see we are a total community, not just a gay strip."

Both Hailey and Sountru said

they saw their business drop off dramatically after the September 11 terror attacks and the nose-dive in tourism that followed. Each opted to take extended vacations, with Hailey spending the last six and half months in Arizona; Sountru traveled throughout Asia over the last six weeks.

Back in town now, they both are optimistic that things will get better, yet remain somewhat skeptical.

"Usually I have no spots available during Pride week. But this year I have lots of spots," said Sountru. "It is a real tell-tale sign I have to do some revamping."

"I frankly think people are ready to resurface. It is human nature," said Hailey, who added, "I may have to eat those words."

As long as visitors continue to come to San Francisco and are looking to experience the queer side to town, Hailey and Sountru will help them find their rainbow-colored way.

"I know I am very fortunate that I work in such a terrific neighborhood," said Hailey. "I get to meet people from all over the world."

Added Sountru, "The bottom line is I really love what I am doing. I always meet new people. What I love the most about this job is seeing how everything about the city bedazzles them." ▼

For more information about Hailey's Castro tours, visit her Web site at www.webcastro.com/castrotour or call her at (415) 550-8110. To schedule a tour with Sountru, call (415) 648-7758.

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Loving the feminine side

by Donna Sachet

"And so what, if I love each feather and each spangle! Why not try to see things from a different angle?"

Somewhere along the way, I began to lean toward the feminine side and at some point I began to embrace it. In this year of "Be Yourself, Change the World," I am more aware than ever that this wonderful community has indeed given me the opportunity to truly be myself and even to celebrate that unique personality.

Youth seems never easy for the LGBT among us, but beyond sexuality, the world is not kind to those who fall on the "wrong" end of the feminine/masculine spectrum. As a young boy, I can remember recoiling from violence, avoiding physical contact sports, and generally resisting the pressure to be more boy-like. The classic childhood pastimes—times associated with males held no interest for this sensitive child who preferred creatively mixing colors, imagining romantic fantasy lives, and spending time in the company of intriguing women. I vividly remember family gatherings where the boys of various ages



Donna Sachet

would gather outside with the men, playing touch football or softball while the male adults barbecued and discussed sports figures. I much preferred quietly hiding near the kitchen as the female adults prepared dinner and discussed emotional issues and the girls folded napkins and set the table. Where does that basic nature begin? Does a female figure embrace us or does some innate part of us embrace the feminine

page 92 ►

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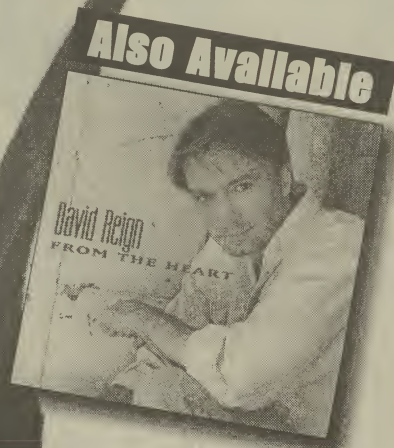
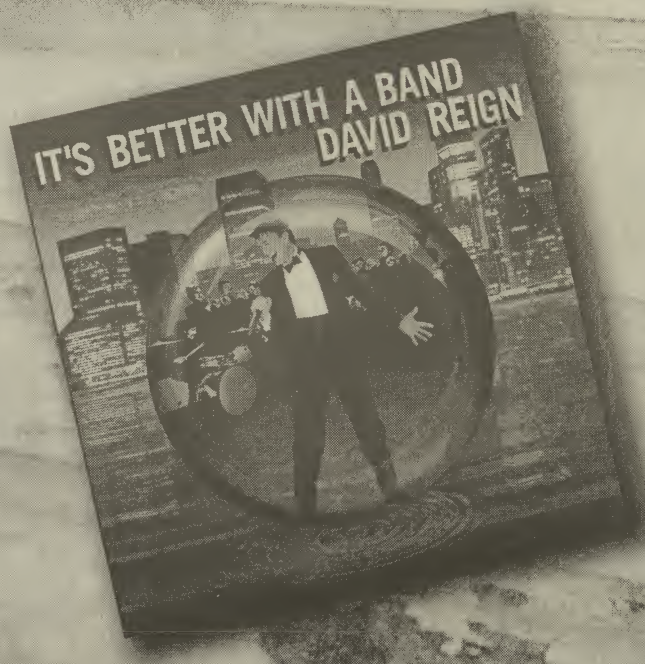
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Bernal Heights and the well-read Pepper



Rachel Pepper, owner of Bernal Books, especially welcomes younger readers, and their parents, to her neighborhood business.

by Zak Szymanski

Author, writer, and editor Rachel Pepper has quite naturally spent a lot of time in bookstores. So when she decided in 1995 that she was ready to go into business for herself, she made the transition from book buyer at A Different Light to owner of Bernal Books quite smoothly.

Nestled in the left-leaning, dyke-heavy district of Bernal Heights — the neighborhood that Pepper also calls home — Bernal Books has been a local institution for more than seven years. Its biggest strength, said Pepper, is the Bernal Heights community.

"This area has an incredible diversity of readers, people who really care about books. They are opinionated, well-read, thoughtful, and caring," she said. "Our specialty is to provide a book home for them, a welcoming place for children, dogs, and readers. As a large population of Bernal Heights is queer, I also stock good queer lit and the store also reflects

my own tastes, which would be to make a point of particularly welcoming women readers, and women with children, who feel so hesitant to go into most retail establishments for fear they won't be welcomed."

Pepper herself is a lesbian writer known for the book *The Ultimate Guide to Pregnancy For Lesbians* (her daughter Frances is now 3 years old) and for her work as an editor at *Curve* magazine, and she is proud to have a place that fulfills the needs of literary queers. But her store caters to all populations — including children — and she outfits her inventory accordingly.

"I try to make sure there is something for everyone in our store," she said, although she draws the line at carrying items like gun magazines, anti-gay humor, and other things that would "offend the sensibilities of the neighborhood."

"We're not a queer bookstore, just queer-owned, and I think I bring to this store a queer sensibility that even my straight cus-

tomers benefit from," she said. "We have a wide customer base, from the 70-year-old straight woman who takes a bus clear across town to buy her paperback mysteries from us, to the work-at-home computer dudes who wander in on their lunch hours. But we sure also have a lot of literary lesbian customers, which I love!"

page 92 ►



Daddy Alan Selby

Proud parade memories

by Daddy Alan Selby

This is the first year that I have had the great honor of being nominated for grand marshal. This means a great deal to me, as it is an acknowledgment of appreciation, by my peers, of my efforts on behalf of the community in my 20th year of raising funds for deserving charities. The support that I receive, especially from the leather community, is something to be treasured. It would have been impossible to have had so many successful benefits without a lot of help from the wonderful volunteers, and donations from very generous merchants.

The Gay Pride Parade is an event that I look forward to each year, and it brings back so many memories for me. In the 1980s I marched with my first partner, Peter, collecting money for the AIDS Emergency Fund, and we competed to see who could outdo the other in the amount we were able to collect.

I remember how pleased I was to be invited to be one of the men carrying the banner of the AEF, with some of the finest men and the best friends a man could ever have. They were members of the board of directors of this august organization. We had so much fun along the way, and the thrill of hearing my name shouted from both sides of Market Street as I marched was something very special, and never to be forgotten.

I am proud to be a gay man in this great city, and proud of my brothers and sisters who do so much to help others in their time of need. ▼

Daddy Alan Selby is an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade.

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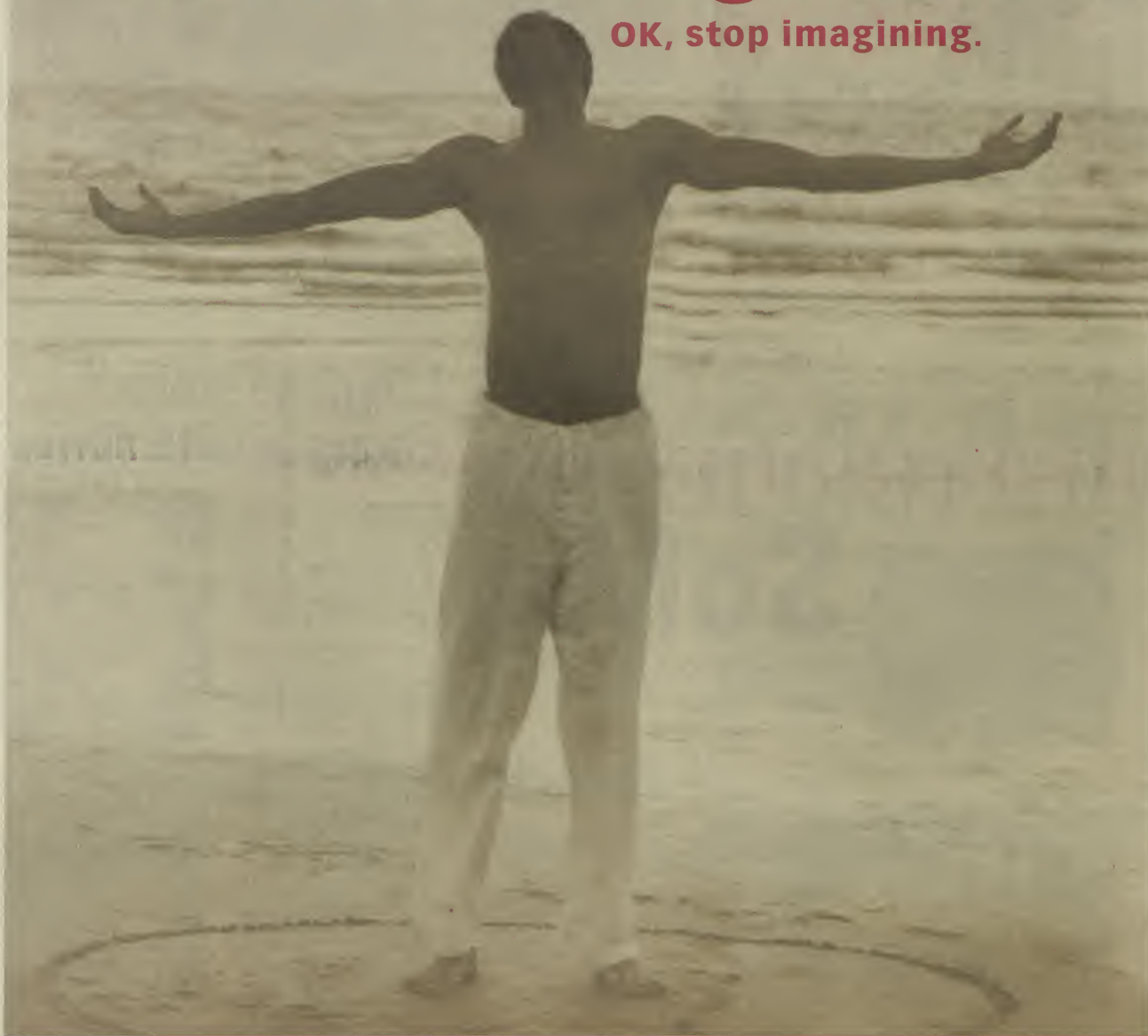


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Not an antique store!

Castro's Earthtones offers a variety of accessories

by Cynthia Laird

If there's one thing Omar Hampton wants you to know, it's that his store, Earthtones, does not specialize in antiques.

"We have collectibles and gifts from around the world. It's not an antique store," he said, laughing.

What the store does have is an impressive collection of lamps, wall-hangings, candles, artwork and other home accessories.

"We have a little bit of everything," Hampton said, gesturing to tables and vases in the store.

Hampton, a San Francisco native, started Earthtones with his late partner, James Becnel, who died of AIDS in 1987. The store has been at its current Market Street location since 1982. Right now the store is managed by Todd Davis, who's been an employee for almost 10 years. Abba, a "good pound dog," as Hampton described her, serves as the official greeter.

During a recent interview at the store, Abba lived up to her duties before settling down near the front to greet the next visitor. She didn't have to wait long before potential customers strolled in.

One of the challenges Hampton faces — like most small business owners — is paying the rent.

"There's this myth that gays have unlimited funds and that's just not true," he said. "We've got our bills to pay and living in the

city is not cheap. When you're a small business you don't have deep pockets."

Hampton decided to go into business for himself after a stint in the corporate world.

"Being gay in corporate America, you couldn't be yourself," he said. "If you were working for a big company you didn't let anyone know [you were gay]. You could get fired. Now, many companies have LGBT employee groups. I think that's wonderful."

He started out making lamps for a designer. That eventually led to Earthtones.

Hampton has seen many changes in the Castro over the years. "All neighborhoods change. Look back at North Beach and Polk Street," he said, referring to parts of the city that were once a hotbed of gay life. "I still like to think of the Castro as the gay capital, and we've seen more diversity, which I think is great."

Hampton is distressed over what he sees as an increase in homeless people in the neighborhood, but added it's a problem throughout the city.

"It's upsetting," he said. "But the Castro is still a great neighborhood and will always be a gay neighborhood."

Hampton is a member of Merchants of Upper Market and Castro and while he's not too involved, he thinks it's a great organization that has done a lot for the neighborhood.



Earthtones manager Todd Davis, left; Abba the greeter, center; and owner Omar Hampton at the Market Street store.

As for the rewards of being a businessman, Hampton said it's about more than the sound of a cash register opening.

"It's not the monetary things. It's being your own boss and getting to know people and getting to see how the community has changed. Men and women in the community pulled together in the 1980s and 1990s when AIDS was at its height," he said.

He added that a lot of people who used to work in the neighborhood — many of them business owners and many of them his friends — have died of AIDS.

For his part, Davis plans to re-

main manager for a long time.

"Retail is fun, you meet a lot of interesting people — gay and straight — from all over. You get to be creative and find room for new stuff," he said.

New merchandise arrives often, because a retail store needs to constantly have new items to bring in customers.

Davis said they try to find items that other stores don't have.

And he noted that chain stores have crept into the neighborhood, adding to the competition.

During the holiday season, Earthtones carries a lot of items in a wide price range. "At Christmas we have something for everybody's budget range," Davis said.

With the current economic slowdown, Hampton said he's eager for tourism to pick up and for consumers to start spending. He's hoping the anticipated crowds for San Francisco's Pride celebration stop in the Castro and shop.

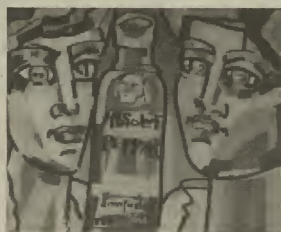
"In retail, the economy goes up and the economy goes down. There's no rhyme or reason in retail. And you have to have fun."

And having fun is what Hampton and Davis try to do with their store. Both love people.

"I love being queer," Hampton said, "and you've got to be a people-person to stay in business." ▼

Earthtones is located at 2323 Market Street and is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call (415) 626-1460 or visit www.earthtonessf.com.

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by Cynthia Laird

Times have changed in the luggage business, but Louis B. Briasco, owner of Michael Bruno on Market Street in the Castro, has also changed with the times.

For one thing, Briasco used to stock a whole wall of hard attaché cases. Now, he mostly keeps them in the back stockroom. He also used to stock many more agendas, or planners. Now, most people have Palm Pilots.

"You have to decide what people want just a little before they decide," Briasco, an openly gay small business owner, laughed.

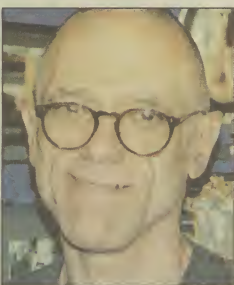
There's still a need for quality luggage, backpacks, and other items, and Briasco's got them all.

It's just Briasco who works at the store now, and he's only open five days a week. He's been in business 20 years, and used to be located in a small mall next door to his current 2267 Market Street location. "I watched 29 [of 30] stores go out of business," he recalled.

Briasco prides himself on being "old school, in terms of being polite." Women are ma'ams, and men are sirs, in his book, he said.

Michael Bruno is stocked with luggage, garment bags, backpacks, and gift items such as clocks, and the framed photos he's taken of the historic F Line streetcars. If he doesn't have a specific item in stock, he can probably order it, and beat a competitor's price for his customers.

He's particularly proud of his extensive line of Manhattan Portage products. The New York-based company has stuck by Briasco for years, though his volume sales aren't like some of the bigger stores. "Sometimes when a com-



Louis Briasco of Michael Bruno

pany gets big, they overlook the small stores," Briasco said. "Manhattan Portage hasn't."

"I like carrying American made stuff," he added. "It's so well made."

Like other longtime business owners in the Castro, Briasco has lost many customers and friends to AIDS, and he remembers when the Castro "was like one big party" in the early 1980s when he opened up shop.

"People were everywhere and they were friendlier. You didn't see as many drugstores, and there weren't chains. You didn't have Walgreens. You had Star Pharmacy."

"There was the vibrancy, and then the sickness," he said.

As for how he settled on the name Michael Bruno, Briasco said the first name came from a dear friend of his, now deceased. Bruno is Briasco's middle name. It had a ring to it, he said. ▼

Michael Bruno is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from noon-6 p.m., and Saturday, from noon-5 p.m. For information, call (415) 552-3970.

QTV Newsmagazine covers the community

by Matthew S. Bajko

As Viacom plans to launch the nation's first gay television channel by 2003, a local queer television program has struggled to bring its show to the airwaves for years.

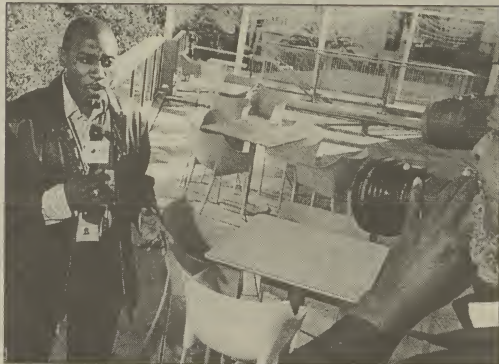
The story of QTV Newsmagazine foretells just how hard getting gay content broadcast can be. For Rahn Fudge, the executive producer of the show, it is a labor of love that dates back to 1995 when he co-founded the show.

Working with a small group of volunteers, Fudge and his cohorts had produced their first show one year earlier, in 1994. But it never made it onto the air. The financial backer of the project failed to come through and on the night it was set to broadcast, the show was nowhere to be seen.

Regrouping with the help of Clarence Swiggins — who lent Fudge and the crew his equipment and home to produce the show — the first episode of QTV finally aired during National Coming Out Day, October 11, 1995.

"The show was only like 20 minutes. It was mostly all PSAs [public service announcements] and us on camera talking about things we planned to do and wanted to do with the show," recalled Fudge, who gained his broadcast experience working in television markets in the South. "From there, we started doing one-hour shows every week from 1996 through 1997."

Because the QTV team wanted their show to be professional and not resemble the lower-quality cable access shows, Fudge and crew fought to get advertisers to support the program. Due to a lack in advertising dollars, the program would be sporadically on



Rahn Fudge, left, on assignment in San Francisco as part of his duties for the QTV Newsmagazine program.

the air throughout the later 1990s.

The show came back on the air this year on March 10 for its first broadcast since last summer. Airing Sunday nights at 5 p.m. on local AT&T Cable Channel 28, QTV delivers a half-hour, fast-paced, newsmagazine style television show covering the lives and lifestyles of gays.

It has been airing episodes all month for Pride, and the QTV crew will be filming and reporting all day during Sunday's Pride Parade. With each episode costing between \$12,000 and \$15,000 to produce, Fudge and his 16-person team are limited in what they can do based on how much advertising revenue they receive.

"We are not able to have it on all the time because the money isn't there," said Fudge. "It really makes me a little bit saddened that I can't fully go after the dream because I don't have the money."

But he is hopeful that the national attention and buzz regarding Viacom's efforts to launch its gay channel will boost the

prospects for QTV.

"We're excited and optimistic about the future of QTV. I feel the timing is right especially in light of the recent announcement that MTV and Showtime have joined forces," he said. "I've always believed that the idea of gay television in America was commercially viable. We were just a few years ahead of the thinking about this when we started years ago."

And while he hopes to draw the attention of people working on the plan for a national channel, Fudge said he is committed to seeing QTV air in the Bay Area.

"We'd simply like to either stay independent with our efforts in the community or be in the right place at the right time if MTV or Showtime comes knocking — or both," he said. ▽

For more information about QTV, call Fudge at (415) 431-5650 or e-mail the show at qtvnews@aol.com.

SF rug seller helps refugees in Central Asia

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the United States continues to wage a war in Afghanistan and American citizens are warned of traveling to Pakistan, Castro resident Greg Halbert worries about his business associates in the region.

Through e-mails and digital photos he receives, Halbert has been able to stay in constant touch with the local Turkmen refugees who supply him with oriental rugs for his store in the Castro. Since last October, when the United States began its war against al Qaeda and the Taliban, Halbert has worried about the safety of his associates there, who have visited him and stayed with him several times.

"The refugees are moving very fast out of Pakistan into Afghanistan. Everyone is really happy to be going back to Afghanistan," said Halbert, the owner of Orient at 168 Sanchez Street. "They are not welcome in Pakistan and there is a land grab going on right now in

Afghanistan. Someone could claim your home before you do."

Through the Cultural Survival project, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Halbert buys rugs hand-woven and naturally dyed from the Ersaris, a Turkmen tribe that had fled Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion and then under the Taliban's rule and have been living in a refugee camp in northern Pakistan.

Descendants of the nomadic tribes Genghis Khan used as mercenaries to control much of Central Asia, the homeless people have supported themselves by hand-making exquisite rugs for sale throughout the Western world.

Through the Afghan Ersari Turkmen Weaver Project, the Turkmen refugees continue the cultural art form of weaving by maintaining the traditional aesthetic and quality of dyes and weaving. When the tribes people moved to Pakistan, the Ersari Vegetable Dye Weaving Project began to emerge.

The refugees learned the tradi-

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Greg Halbert, owner of Orient, a store specializing in rugs from around Asia.

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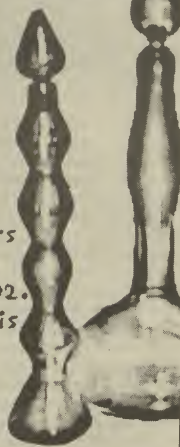
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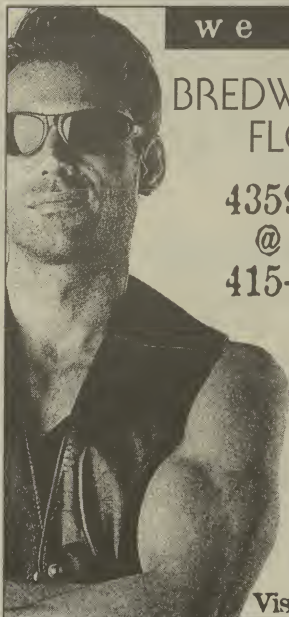
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Noodle mag targets gay Asian audience

by Matthew S. Bajko

When Max Lau told his father he was going to use his life savings to start *Noodle* magazine, the first publication to cater to gay Asian males, he forgot to mention one thing. That he, and the bent of his magazine, was gay.

Even as he was editing one of the magazine's features for its premier issue on coming out to Asian parents — "and living to tell about it" as the editors teased on the cover — Lau expected to remain in the closet.

"I didn't have a game plan" on coming out said Lau, who was born and raised in Sao Paulo, Brazil and then moved to Mountain View when he was 13. "My friends joke that if their parents don't ask then they know so why deal with it. A lot of people who are Asian and gay will say why tell them if they already know."

His sisters, who knew Lau's secret, did have a plan and decided to out both Lau and his magazine's content to their father. They sent their father to the magazine's Web site at www.noodlemagazine.com which kicked open the door to Lau's closet.

"My dad said he has known for quite a long time but Max never talked about it," laughed Lau as he recalled the story. "He called me up and said 'You know, Confucius said that sexuality is natural, and so if it's natural and it's good, there's nothing wrong with being gay.'"

As Lau wrote for his first note

from the publisher in the magazine, "I guess already, *Noodle* was doing what I wanted it to do: talk about the things that I didn't want to explain. I just wasn't expecting my father to be the one to get it."

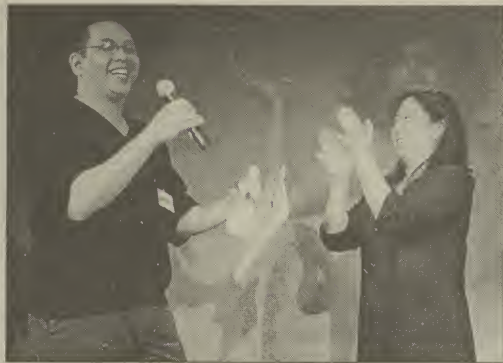
Lau hopes other gay Asian and Pacific Islander men will want to get his magazine, which costs \$4.95 and hit newsstands for the first time this month. Already, Borders books has picked up *Noodle* and is selling it in 64 stores throughout the United States. Numerous gay bookstores in the city are stocking it and a distributor in Canada is also selling it.

With Margaret Cho adorning the cover, and headlining the magazine's San Francisco launch party earlier in June, *Noodle* is already making a splash. Plus Lau and his volunteer staff of editors and writers are tackling topics they say are not given much coverage by other mainstream media.

While the premier issue is awash with photo spreads of sexy Asian models in swimsuits and has a section where it profiles gay Asian bachelors from throughout the country, its main theme is drug use in the gay API community.

"A lot of Asians are doing drugs for whatever reasons and we just wanted to bring that out. Plus it is Pride time and all these people are going to be partying," said Lau. "A lot of personal friends of mine have been doing it a lot. A lot of them have overdosed and ended up in the emergency room."

A graduate of the University of



Max Lau, publisher of the new *Noodle* magazine, left, with comedienne Margaret Cho at the publication's launch party earlier this month at the LGBT Community Center.

California at Berkeley with a degree in sociology with a minor in Asian American studies, Lau had had no formal training in journalism before working on the magazine. What he said he did have was good organizing skills.

Through his background of founding the first gay Asian group on the Berkeley campus and starting a fashion accessories company with his sisters, Lau said he felt he could handle the task of being a magazine publisher.

"I think I am a darn good organizer and I had a lot of business experience. So the whole thing ties in very well with my personality and organizing skills," said Lau, who is also the junior varsity girls volleyball coach at University

High School in San Francisco.

For now the magazine is a nonprofit enterprise. The first press run was 15,000 copies with the next issue set to come out in

September.

"We are hoping that after the first year we can have at least 5,000 to 7,000 subscribers," said Lau. "It really is for the community, that is what we hope. I hope we never run out of subjects to talk about."

Lau promises the next cover will feature a gay Asian man and already has lined up several athletes for the photo shoot. All the athletes will be traveling to Sydney for the Gay Games this fall.

If the 400 people who showed up at the magazine's launch party is any indication, *Noodle* is off to a good start.

"*Noodle* magazine is a magazine never before seen on newsstands. It is about gay Asians, for gay Asians and put out by gay Asians," said *Noodle* columnist Eddie Jen at the party. "And if you know gay Asians, you know we put out."

It is that combination of humor and seriousness Lau hopes will attract readers to the magazine. ▽



Black & Blue staff, clockwise from top left, Fish, co-owner Natalie Castañeda Chandler, Cedre, co-owner Idexa, Marie, Leslie, and Rocio.

Permanent markers

Black & Blue offers tattoos

by Zak Szymanski

Walk into Black & Blue Tattoo and it is immediately evident that this is not your average ink spot. Lesbians and tranny boys crowd the front room exploring portfolios, exchanging healing tips, or hanging out for the atmosphere. The back room, where the work is performed, is rarely unoccupied, and on a particular Friday afternoon both of the shop's owners are busy marking a couple of bodies while they socialize with whoever wanders in.

"We kind of geared it that way," explained Natalie Castañeda Chandler, about the parlor's relentless support from the community. Black & Blue, in turn, often donates its services to many queer organizations and causes.

"Although, it's not like we just tattoo queers," added co-owner Idexa, as she put the fine touches on a man's arm. "We have a lot of straight customers who just feel safe here. And then, you know, there are some men who are just really into being 'tattooed by the ladies' and don't really get the whole dyke-owned shop thing."

Seven years ago, Idexa, who

uses only one name, originally intended to open a shop with a few other women, and she decided to ask Chandler to join because "we knew each other, knew we were both self-taught, and sometimes would check in with each other to ask questions about tattooing," said Idexa. When the time came to take the plunge, however, the others got cold feet. "They said, 'We're not ready,'" said Idexa, "and Natalie and I looked at each other and said, 'We are!'"

The rest is history. Black & Blue has been in its current location since 1995, chosen in part because it sat next to the historic dyke cafe, The Bearded Lady. But with Bearded's future on the brink, and with the staff of seven tattoo artists rapidly outgrowing the space, Black & Blue may start eyeing other Mission neighborhood locations. Regardless of where the shop takes up permanency, however, it will remain rooted in a philosophy that both Idexa and Chandler agree is often missing from the tattoo world.

"It's a secretive kind of business," said Idexa. "You're not supposed to share information. We disagree with that, and believe

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Arise strives to serve black LGBTs

by Cynthia Laird

It's an uphill battle, but one that MacArthur H. Flournoy and Glenn Alexander don't mind climbing. The longtime partners—"in crime and business"

Flournoy laughed—publish *Arise*, a magazine dedicated to LGBT and same-gender loving people of African descent. The monthly magazine was launched in October 2000 and is the second such venture for Flournoy, who used to publish *Whazzup*, also geared to-

ward African American LGBTs.

In a recent interview, Flournoy and Alexander said that *Arise* is a lifestyle publication, with features on travel destinations, fashion, health, and finance. Its national circulation is around 55,000, a large part of which is made up of women, they said. The average age of readers is 35 and over.

Articles on health include stories on HIV/AIDS and breast cancer. But they are interspersed between features on lighter topics, such as a recent swimwear photo spread. And when serving a predominantly LGBT African American audience, the men noted that articles in the magazine often deal with other serious topics as well. A recent issue had a story on LGBT domestic violence.

Flournoy said that convincing advertisers to support his magazine has not been easy, and is something he and Alexander struggle with constantly. In particular, they've had to work to convince decision-makers at companies that they serve a viable demographic group.

"We'll get bounced between the gay marketing rep and the black marketing rep," said Alexander, who serves as director of marketing. "It's completely an uphill battle."

Flournoy and Alexander plan on being in San Francisco for this weekend's Pride activities. The men live in Sacramento, having moved there from the East Bay to save money on housing costs. Flournoy previously worked at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, while Alexander used to do event



Arise magazine marketing director Glenn Alexander, left, and publisher and editor MacArthur H. Flournoy.

Leadership

by Brenda J. Crawford

I know that in the past, I have focused on how we as black LGBT people can have an impact on the political process. I have outlined how you can get involved in getting appointed to local boards and commissions. However if you will indulge me, I want to deviate from my political path, and explore leadership.

What makes a leader? What is the nature of true leadership?

My grandmother (who raised me) always told me that the only reason we exist was to be of service to God and to our fellow human beings. If we ever forget that our primary purpose is to be a servant then we need to rethink what we are doing and for what reason.

So if you believe that the true nature of leadership involves servant-hood, then how do we as black LGBT people develop and support our leaders? How do we encourage more people to step up and get involved? How do we hold them accountable? Many of us have rejected the servant role because we see it as negative and not empowering. Many of us believe that we have to make a name for ourselves in the movement and we do it by competing with, and not supporting each other's efforts. I believe that real leadership requires humility, grace, and selfless service. This is a tall order and very few of us ever get to be true leaders. If we are lucky, people will trust us enough to believe that our work is important and will support the work with time, energy, and dollars.

The black LGBT civil rights work is more important than any of us who are involved. It requires those of us who have been blessed to be placed in leadership roles, lead



Brenda Crawford

with the heart of a servant.

Leaders must always strive to be spiritually balanced, and work to improve their skills and knowledge. Leaders should always be cognizant of the sacred role that has been bestowed upon them and realize that sacred roles require the ability to work in a co-operative manner with a variety of people. To listen, to be sensitive, and to encourage differences. To view our differences as a part of the richness and creativity that makes up this magnificent black LGBT community—a community that we are all striving to make a better place in which to live. When you come down to it, maybe what we need are fewer leaders, and more servants. ▼

Brenda J. Crawford is chair of the board of the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum. The above essay previously appeared in *Arise* magazine. Crawford is an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade.

planning. Both men now work full-time on the magazine.

Flournoy said he's attempting to reach a wide audience. "There isn't a singular definition that applies to all people," he said. "People of color and LGBT—they're a lot broader."

And more of them are becoming parents. "A National Gay and Lesbian Task Force survey said that over 30 percent of people attending Pride [in various cities] are parents," he added.

While the challenges of putting out a monthly magazine are many, there are also rewards.

"I think that the most rewarding thing for us in starting *Arise* is the recognition and support that we receive from the community," Alexander said. "The response from the community is 'it's about time.' It was important that we produce a publication that was tasteful and elegant and reflected the voices of

our community today."

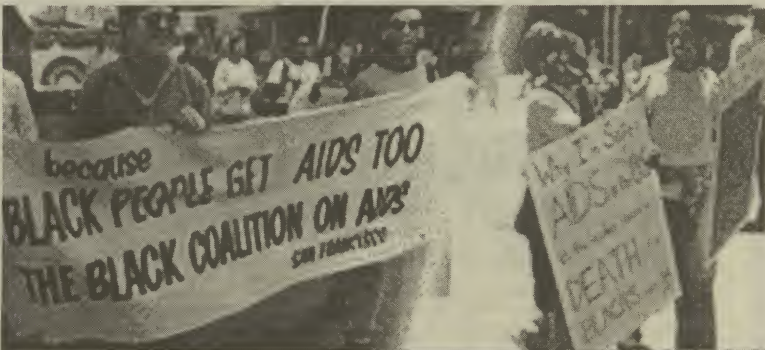
Alexander added that it's still "amazing" to both he and Flournoy that their magazine is still the country's only monthly national publication for gay and lesbian people of color.

"Out and the *Advocate* largely exclude people of color," Flournoy said of the major LGBT glossy publications.

Alexander said that he and Flournoy are well aware that it's difficult to succeed in the publishing business.

"With each issue we are grateful and feel very blessed to have an opportunity to do what we love," he said. ▼

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Former waiter succeeds at wining and dining

Greg Bronstein knows what people want

by Matthew S. Bajko

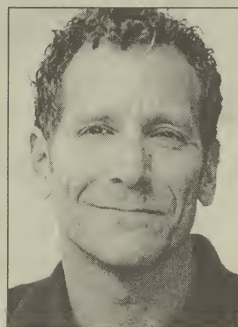
It has been one success after another for Greg Bronstein, who has risen from being a waiter at Pier Market to helping launch the successful Chevy's Fresh Mex chain to transforming the Castro's gourmet selections.

As the owner of Blue on Market Street, the Whiskey Lounge and The Red Grill on 18th Street, Bronstein has brought moderately priced American fare to a neighborhood awash in burrito stands and Asian restaurants. With his recent purchase of Luna Piena on Castro Street, he has already dropped the Piena and is planning to roll out a new dinner menu in July.

With The Bar on Castro, he has brought lounging to the gay bar scene. And as he negotiates to purchase the Detour and the frame shop next door, his next project could very well alter the late night dance scene.

Personable yet reserved, Bronstein has not let his business achievements inflate his ego. As he expands his portfolio he said he is more concerned about his customers' experiences in his establishments than with his bottom line.

"As long as we stay focused on the guest it will work. If we take things for granted then people will say, 'Who is this guy who owns five or six restaurants?'" said Bronstein. "I don't want to take over the Castro. I just want to pro-



Restaurateur Greg Bronstein

vide a host of opportunities to the people who live and work in the Castro, as well as the people who work for me."

Ever since he was a boy hosting his father's cocktail parties back in Vancouver, Washington, Bronstein has wanted to enter the hospitality field. His first foray into the business here in San Francisco stemmed from a chance party invitation where most of the guests were restaurant workers.

At the party he met Warren Simmons, founder of Pier 39 and owner of the Pier Market. Within 10 months of hiring Bronstein as a waiter, Simmons had promoted him to management. Two years later he asked Bronstein to help open and manage the first Chevy's restaurant in Alameda.

By the time he had left the Mexican restaurant chain in 1998, Bronstein had opened nearly 70 locations across the country and climbed the corporate ladder within the Pepsi Corporation after it had

bought the Chevy's chain in 1993.

After stepping down as vice president of operations, Bronstein opened a small food chain called Wrapworks. After selling his stake in that company, he landed the contract to buy both Pozole, which he renamed Blue, and Castro Station, now The Bar on Castro.

"I always wanted to open my own business, but I didn't know what it would be," he said. "I knew the Castro fairly well and thought I could make some improvement to the neighborhood."

While he knew he had the expertise to become a restaurant owner, Bronstein said it was still a big risk.

"If people don't come in to eat, you don't make money. I risked everything I had saved over the years," he said.

Those fears of having an empty restaurant never materialized. His food service philosophy seems to resonate with both residents and visitors to the neighborhood.

"You have to do what people want and not what you like," he explained. "It is all about the people you work with and knowing your guests."

For now Bronstein is focused on remodeling The Bar, which he said is a work in progress. He recently put in a new smoking lounge along the sidewalk, but is still uncertain of how to proceed with the interior space. Apart from wanting to complete his talks to purchase the Detour, he said he has no immediate plans to buy other venues.

"This is plenty for right now," he said. "As long as I feel there is a need we can contribute to, we will continue to do it." ▽

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Still cookin' after all these years

Castro's Welcome Home celebrates 25th anniversary

by Cynthia Laird

The tables were mostly empty during a late afternoon visit to Welcome Home, a Castro restaurant that is celebrating its silver anniversary this year. But the temporary lull in customers didn't hide the fact that lots of people have stopped by for a meal over the years, and the small, homey eatery is rich in history. A photo of Alma, a former longtime waitress, graces one wall. On another is a painting of the restaurant's interior, done many years ago by a man who did similar paintings for other Castro establishments.

Owner Ray Powers has seen a lot since that day in August 1977 when he and his partner, Joe Brooks, opened the restaurant that specializes in short-order fare and "comfort food," as manager Kip Smith describes it.

"In 1978, when gays started coming to the Castro, this was a



Welcome Home owner Ray Powers, with manager Kip Smith.

hot dog stand with pinball machines in the back," Powers said. That explains why the kitchen is in the front of the restaurant.

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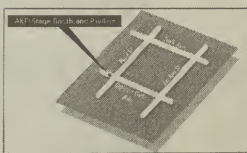
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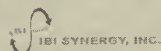
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A slice of Europe

Hayes Valley Inn caters to gay clientele

by Matthew S. Bajko

When guests check in to the Hayes Valley Inn for Pride this weekend, they will find everything they need to enjoy this year's celebration.

The inn has gay pride guides and official pride books for its guests. And each of the hotel's 32 rooms will have a pride-colored Teddy Bear waiting for those checking in.

With such touches, it is no wonder the inn is once again booked solid for the fourth year in a row during Pride. Many of the guests staying there have been coming to the European-styled inn for years.

Yet there is something surprising about this hotel which markets itself mainly to the gay community. The owners are straight. In fact, one of the co-owners owns a construction business with the other partner's husband.

"The gay community has always been our base. Most of the employees are gay, and we have participated in many of the gay community's events," said co-owner Dawn Wiggins, who bought the inn five years ago with partner Juan Cespedes.

And it is not just during Pride that gay travelers flock to the hotel. Year-round the inn is filled with gay guests who often have been told of the friendly and inviting accommodations by friends who have stayed there in the past.

"People just like the home atmosphere here," said Wiggins.

It is a remarkable feat when one considers that the place was a dump when Wiggins took it over. Run as mainly a residential hotel, hookers and drug dealers had taken over the inn and ruined its charm.

Other merchants in the area saw the hotel as such an abomina-



Hayes Valley Inn co-owner Dawn Wiggins, with Dennis Hale.

tion to their neighborhood that they refused to speak to Wiggins and her openly gay supervisor of staff Dennis Hale.

"There was a time when they wouldn't even speak to us," said Hale, a former bartender of such gay nightspots as the Mother Lode, Pendulum and the Transfer. "They would say you will never change it."

But change it they did. Wiggins worked to refurbish the hotel room by room and began moving the business more into a tourist instead of a residential hotel. She worked out payment deals with the remaining residents, and when they did not make rent, she was able to evict them.

"Drug addicts don't pay the rent," she said.

Those who did make payments on time and turned their lives around moved into a residential hotel Wiggins owns next door to the inn.

"We have gotten a lot of people clean and off of bad drug problems by sticking with them," said Hale. "It all just worked out beautifully."

As the hotel changed over the years, so did the surrounding neighborhood. Hayes Valley has been dubbed the city's French Quarter and developers have

taken notice, building new units or refurbishing old ones all along Gough Street.

The area's rebirth is a boon to the inn, making it appealing to even more visitors to the city. Even the mixing of straight and gay guests in a hotel where people share a communal bathroom and shower seems to be working out.

"Three years ago for the Folsom Street Fair we had these guys come in and then come out as these gorgeous ladies," recalled Wiggins. "We had a family staying here from Ohio, a man and woman and their kids. They came to me and said this was the best vacation they ever had."

With its reasonable rates — this summer the inn's rates run from \$58 to \$99 — and its central location to downtown, the Castro, and Civic Center, the Hayes Valley Inn offers travelers respite and adds to San Francisco's charm. The hotel even allows guest to bring their pets.

"It's just a friendly little place to stay where you feel like family," said Hale. ▼

For more information about the inn, visit its Web site at www.hayesvalleyinn.com or call (415) 431-9131.

Hard day's work

Lesbian sex worker makes a living

by Zak Szymanski

In most ways, Lola (not her real name) lives just like anybody would. The 30-something Mission neighborhood femme dyke enjoys her lesbian community, is a creative writer, holds a steady volunteer gig, and is studying to be a teacher at a local college.

What separates Lola from most of America is not necessarily uncommon in the urban dyke scene:

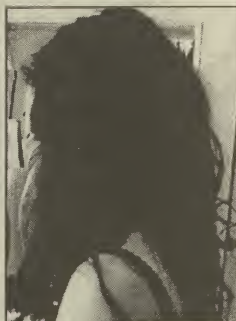
Lola is a sex worker by trade, a woman who sells her beauty and talent to mostly heterosexual men with money to spare. By San Francisco standards — where rents remain unaffordable for most people, especially lesbians — her story is not unique; it is a well-known secret that the men who frequent the city's strip clubs are often ogling women who simultaneously take their money yet find their species revolting.

But being a lesbian does not necessarily make sex work easier, said Lola, despite the fact that your work and love life are separated by countless differences.

"I'm not in the big camp of, 'Oh it's so wonderful, and such an easy way for a dyke to make money,'" said Lola, who started out as a high-priced escort who vacationed with celebrities and is now in business for herself, seeing clients for \$250-an-hour erotic massage in her own apartment.

"I may only have to work a few hours a week, but my work consumes an inestimable amount of my energy," she said. "In retrospect I may look back and realize it sucked the life out of me."

Lola's work is dubbed a "rub and tug;" her clients meet her in



Lesbian sex worker "Lola"

her living room for a drink, and then she walks away to set up her massage table and allow the men to check her out from behind. That's also their cue to start getting undressed. After giving a legitimate massage — Lola is, in fact, trained in body work — she provides the men with "a little release for their woody."

"Sometimes it takes forever, and I'm, like, 'Fuck, this is bull-shit,'" she described while making hand-job motions in the air.

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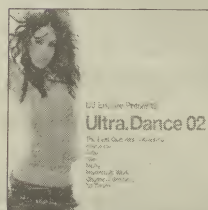
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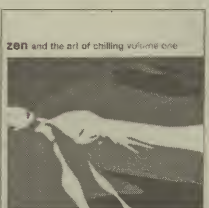
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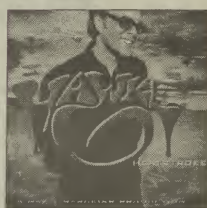
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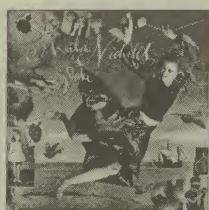
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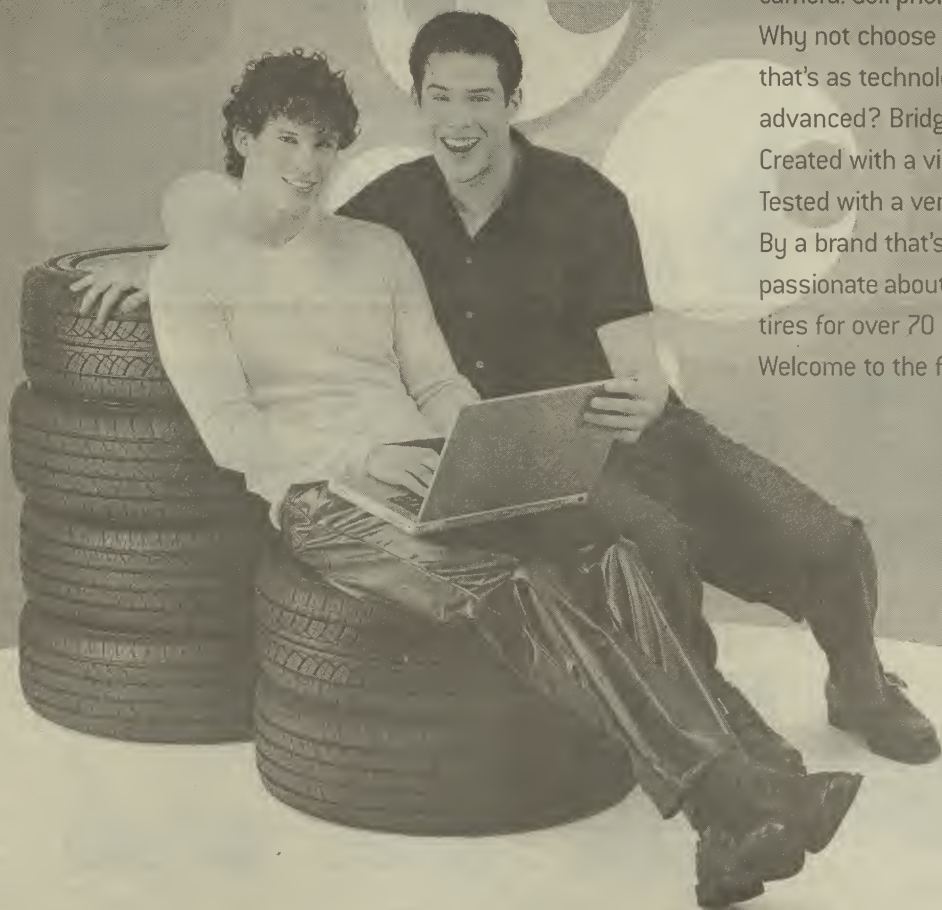
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Party promoter finds the right grooves

by Matthew S. Bajko

As his monthly dance parties approach their one-year anniversary, promoter Ray Chan is proving he can give good party. Since his XMEN parties debuted last August, Chan has amassed a growing following to the Sunday night tea dances and is attracting top dance music talent to San Francisco.

This Pride weekend he launches the biggest effort to date, Xanadu, a special tea dance at Club Caliente, formerly Club VSF and the Oasis, on Folsom Street in the South of Market District. DJs David Wade and Matt Consola will provide the music and live on-stage will be diva Jeanie Tracy.

But getting to this point has not been easy for Chan, who was born and raised in Hong Kong and landed in San Francisco in 1985. While he was a popular DJ in Hong Kong, Chan said since he was Asian he had to fight to prove himself when he came to America.

"Hong Kong is a very international city. But when I got here people looked at me and think I don't know anything about music," said Chan. "Here I have to work three times as hard to prove myself."

Oftentimes when he would go for a DJ job, Chan would lose out to a white DJ.

"They would hire some all-American boy without experience and not me," he said.

So he put his talents to work running a restaurant called Cafe

Kimbal on Maiden Lane. And while many recent arrivals from Asia who become restaurateurs will feature their homeland cooking, Chan took a different approach.

"Just because I am Asian, everything I do doesn't have to be Asian. When I opened the restaurant it was not Asian, it was Californian cuisine," he said.

When he closed the restaurant in 1999, Chan launched X-Ray Productions. Last August, Chan and partner Alan Vorhees started the XMEN events that featured various DJs such as Frank Abraham, DJ Joe B, Matthew Baker, and others. Once the two decided to make XMEN a regular monthly event, they asked DJ Matt Consola to be their resident DJ.

The kickoff to the new arrangement took place this spring and has been attracting



X-Ray owner Ray Chan

nearly 600 people to the events. Artists such as Flava, Abigail, and Erin Hamilton have all graced the

stage of the parties, which embody Chan's philosophy about partying.

"Everyone, whether gay, Asian, Latino, black, or leather, we can all get along and go and party and connect and have fun," said Chan. "My market is to attract people who love to party, who are responsible, are nice, have no attitude and want to have fun."

He is also careful not to be seen as a direct competitor with other club promoters in the city, scheduling his events around those of other parties. Even for his one-year anniversary party he has moved the date to accommodate a competing event.

"XMEN is the second Sunday every month, but in August will move to the third Sunday to make way for Gus's popular Sundance party at the Russian River," ex-

plained Chan. "XMEN believes in supporting and working with other promoters so the party boys don't have to miss any of these great events."

With his charm and friendly demeanor, Chan makes for the perfect host. Most of the people staffing his events are volunteers, and he even rotates in different types of go-go dancers to cater to his guests' varying tastes in men.

"I always do it from the customer's point of view," Chan said of planning his events. "If you are nice, you make a lot of good friends." ▼

For more details on XMEN events, visit the Web site at www.xmensf.com or call the XMEN info line at (415) 333-9688.

Sex worker

◀ page 88

When Lola first took the sex work plunge in 1999, she was going through what she calls a big transition: she had just turned 30 and had ended a long-term relationship, and yes, was looking for some easy cash.

"But to this day it goes beyond money for me," she explained. "I know it has to do with playing out old patterns, and recreating dynamics of power and objectification. This has served me in other ways besides money. There's a thrill, a danger, an attraction to

living in the underbelly. And I enjoy the idea of appearing one way to the outside world and having this other life, which as a femme is also how I live my dyke-dom. It's not always visible."

Lola also enjoys playing with her double life as a lesbian when she is seeing clients, a secret identity that can allow her to emotionally detach from the men she services.

"When I was flying around the world in corporate jets, it was a thrill for me to think, 'You guys have no idea,'" she laughed. "And some of the guys I see now can be so pathetic, like, they feel that we have this deep connection because

of something I wrote on my Web site, or they linger after their session and say stuff like, 'Thank you for sharing so much of yourself with me.'"

But her empowerment has its price, and it usually comes in the form of emotional shutdown or fear.

"It's probably made me more of a man-hater in every way. Even the clients that I 'like' are all assholes," she said. "And it can affect my romantic relationship, even though my girlfriend has never given me a hard time about it."

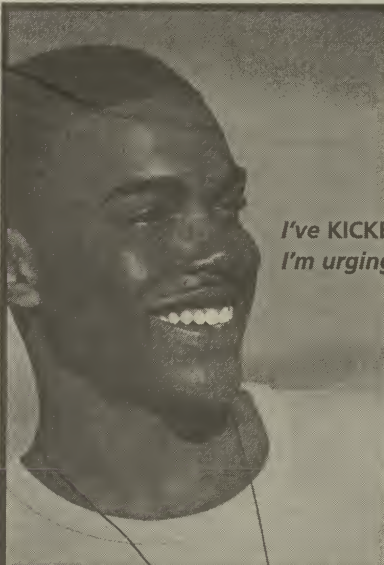
And the double life can also take its toll on her casual relationships and everyday growth.

"I won't discuss my sex work in school, even though it's so relevant to class topics on socioeconomics and the like. So I lose out on contributing in that way, but I worry that people will be like, 'I can't believe a fucking whore is going to be a teacher.'"

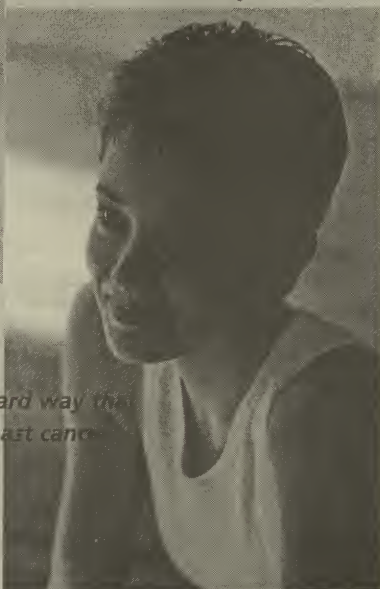
"You never know who you can tell, so I tend not to talk about it," she said. "People say they don't judge, but they do."

Still, there's enough of a draw there for her to keep working, at least for now.

"It's not out of necessity that I do this," she said. "Here's the thing: it will always hold that thrill for me. It's fantasy land." ▼



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LGBT center

◀ page 70

and Grove streets operated in the early 1970s. But those, according to historian Susan Stryker, were mainly for gay men. "And this one," she said, "is more expensive."

The center opened during the week of March 3. When Cheu started work as director on May 20, he said he was handed a \$15.5 million building, a \$3 million budget, a staff of 20, and a nagging \$200,000 deficit leftover from the capital campaign.

Walk out of Cheu's office and through the doors into the new part of the center, past the paper sign that says "Executive Director's Office, \$100,000 Naming Opportunity," down the stairs and into the atrium lobby. "It's a little cold," Cheu said. "I've called the 'living room,' but I'd like to make it less industrial. Maybe couches and chairs." There's an information desk staffed by volunteers that is piled with fliers for various LGBT events.

Upstairs, the building has a computer center, an art gallery that will open this month with an exhibition of Robert Rauschenberg paintings, and 16 meeting rooms. The Harvey Milk Institute and City College both use the rooms for classes and, thus far, are the major occupants.

The largest of the rooms, the Rainbow Room on the second floor, is set up as a theater. On Monday nights, Larry Roberts, by day an aide to San Francisco Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, helps produce a weekly queer comedy night there. At a recent show, comic Dana Cory, in white tie and

white tails, mocked the center's inclusiveness.

"We're here at the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, man who was really drunk at a Christmas party community center," she said. "And it's the worst gig I have ever had."

But Cheu said his favorite event at the center so far was also held in that room, a launch party for *Noodle* magazine on June 12. [See story on page 84.] The first issue of the magazine for Asian gays has a feature about comedienne Margaret Cho. She spent several hours at a table by the front doors of the packed room autographing copies.

"I've kind of forgotten how to sign my name," Cho said at the event. "You know, if you do it over and over, you forget how to spell it."

Cheu said he thinks the center has many missions. For small groups, 21 of which share a warren of tiny offices on the fourth floor, he hopes the center will provide "a space they can claim as their own. So they don't have to worry about who has the P.O. box key."

Larger groups will use the building for meetings, performances, and rehearsals. He wants his staff to start orientations for newcomers, and those newly out; a gay convention and visitors' bureau; and work on improving the financial situation of LGBT people, who he says like any other minority, are disadvantaged.

But as the center settles into its work, Cheu said, "There's going to be an evolution from what people think they wanted, to what they really want."

At the top of the building as you step off the elevator on the

fourth floor is the entry to the Ceremonial Room, a large airy space with a balcony overlooking Market Street. The center's vivacious program director, Anne Tamar-Mattis, recalled that shortly after the center opened, the room was the site of Harry Hay's 90th birthday party on April 7.

Hay founded America's first gay rights organization, the Mattachine Society, in 1950, and then, in 1979, the Radical Faeries, Hay's reaction to the over-commercialization of gay culture.

At that party, an afternoon of hyperbole, the most quoted anecdote was about the young gay man at a Pride festival in New York who approached Hay and said simply, "Thank you for my life."

"It was Kismet," said Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, who was at the party.

Repeating what some have called his mantra, Hay said that he thinks the community center should "recognize that the gay community brings a way of looking things that straight people don't necessarily see. We need to show the best of what we bring and let everyone see it for what is beautiful."

"Our young gay little brothers and sisters," Hay said. "They've got a long path before they find themselves. The center must be a place where they can come and affirm themselves. And as San Francisco spreads itself out before them, they can then find the beauty in it and themselves." ▼

For more information on the LGBT Community Center, visit www.sfcenter.org or call (415) 437-2257.

Ozarks

◀ page 68

becued ribs, at the annual picnic of my grandmother's people. Fifty people of all ages are greeting and eating.

We take deep breaths and step outside, wading in, joining the gentle purr of down-home accents. We are instantly, cordially, welcome. Everyone likes Trey, as I sensed they would. He's from Texas. I like to tell him that Missourians are merely Texans with humility. Oddly, he's not amused.

That evening, my grandfather's clan begins to assemble at the town's best restaurant. It is only after I have posed for pictures and worked the dinner crowd like a politician that my cousin John, an Alabama fundamentalist, informs me that my fly has been open all evening. My own lesson in humility, delivered with a sly chuckle.

The next day is the main event as we gather at noon at Aunt Vir-

ginia's home. She bestows to me the high honor of leading the tribe in prayer. We hold hands, and in that moment I feel the sweep of full acceptance. I struggle though a short blessing. We then speak the names of family members who are not present — our ancestors, the departed, those too ill to attend. My voice breaks, as it always does, when I mention my parents, who both died in 1998. They would not have understood the need to disturb "sleeping dogs." But they would surely wish for my happiness, my need to feel completed.

I learned some lessons that reunion weekend — besides the one about always checking your fly. I learned that we are all a little closed-minded about some people. I learned that before changing the world, I must be willing to take risks to discover the truth for myself.

We went, wanting to change the world, expecting to encounter narrow minds; we found only open hearts. ▼

Donna Sachet

◀ page 76

within? Does a dominant male alienate us or do typically male activities lie beyond our internal instinctual interests?

One of my strongest childhood memories is of my father attempting to reverse what he saw as feminine tendencies by teaching me to shoot a gun. It was New Year's Eve and in Georgia people shoot guns into the air at midnight. My older brother was anxious for his turn, embracing it almost as a rite of passage. He enthusiastically grasped the shotgun, swaggered into the backyard, and fired three shots into the air. My turn was next and I was terrified. Why did the gun seem so terrifying? Why did I dread the ceremonial shooting so much? Why did I not relish this shared experience with my father figure? For whatever reason, I cowered and sobbed and eventually eliminated myself from this ceremony and retreated to my room questioning my masculinity and fearing a future of alienation from my very gender. I now know that firearms have nothing to do with my gender. There are men and women who enjoy hunting and shooting and there are scores of both sexes who abhor the very idea.

At some point in my life, I decided that this is me. I decided to be myself, whatever that might be. And somewhere along the way this wonderful community has enabled me to celebrate my differences and embrace my idiosyncrasies. The Donna Sachet persona, which I have created out of my own being, has enabled me to express my femininity with pride and exuberance. This San Francisco LGBT community has not only allowed me that opportunity but has empowered me through this expression to raise money for charitable causes, to bring laughter to those without much happiness, and to serve as a role model for countless unrecognized individuals with similarly nontraditional gender identities. Yes, I love to dress up, to throw my slim shoulders back in a form-fitting dress and sachet on five-inch heels. And I decided years ago to quit wondering why. For whatever reason, this is me; I like it and I am so fortunate to say that a loving and supportive community likes it too. With my head held high, I have chosen to be myself and if that changes the world, so be it! ▼

Donna Sachet is an honorary marshal in this year's Pride Parade.

Bernal Books

◀ page 80

And Pepper also has the assistance of lesbian literary icon Michelle Tea, renowned author of *Valencia* and a mainstay of the city's spoken word scene, who has been employed at Bernal Books since the beginning of the year.

"Michelle Tea is doing an amazing job of scheduling events," said Pepper, noting upcoming readings at Bernal Books by Lynn Breedlove, author of *Godspeed*, on Friday June 28, and Terry Ryan, author of *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio*, on Friday July 5. Breedlove's *Godspeed* is currently one of the shop's best sellers, along with Sarah Waters's *Fingersmith*, as well as more mainstream fiction like *Five Quarters of the Orange*, nonfiction like *Stupid White Men*, and an assortment of mysteries and kids books.

Business has been holding steady during the recession, said Pepper, although she had her fears during the dot-com explosion "when I started seeing all these Amazon.com boxes being delivered around the neighborhood. That is still happening to a small-

er degree and it totally bums me out."

But for the most part, her neighbors are her friends and loyal customers, and the high point of owning Bernal Books has been "watching the beautiful children of my customers grow up with a love of books in part because of me," she said. "It's the best legacy I can think of."

For Pepper, having work and home in the same few blocks means an immersion in her neighborhood, which she calls "a true community."

"I can't imagine living anywhere else in the city," she said of her hilltop urban small town. "People know each other and actually say hello to one another on the street. And on September 11, everyone in the neighborhood spontaneously gathered in our local playground with our kids. We all stayed there until dark, just being together and providing support for one another and watching our kids play. That says it all." ▼

Bernal Books is located at 401 Cortland Avenue in San Francisco and can be reached at (415) 550-0293.

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Black & Blue

◀ page 84

competition is good, and that customers deserve to know what they're about to go through, and why."

Becoming full-time tattoo artists has been the best decision either of them has made. Both have had some formal art training, and both agree this is the best way for them to make a living utilizing their creativity.

"The best part is all the people you meet," said Chandler, while creating an ocean scene on the shoulder blades of a woman. "Every person that walks in is a brand new canvas, and no two skins are the same. They all come with personalities and ideas of their own."

Idexa concurred.

"For me I enjoy carrying someone through an intense situation," she said. "To know how it feels, to help them through that, and come out on the other side more beautiful."

There have been some bumps along the way. One incident that stands out for both of them is the time they agreed to tattoo a queer teenage sex worker's penis, "and

word got out and suddenly all these guys came in to have their dicks tattooed," remembered Idexa. "Besides the erection, which we really didn't want to touch, it's a very difficult area to tattoo."

They also both agree on their least favorite thing to tattoo on customers: the names of lovers.

"I tell people it will cost them twice as much to cover it up," laughed Chandler, "so they'll really think about it before they do it."

"It's a big taboo," agreed Idexa. "It's the beginning of the end of a relationship when you tattoo a lover's name. And I get so upset when I have to cover up my own work. Now I tell people I'll only tattoo a name if they go somewhere else to get it covered."

Despite the tough talk, it's hard to imagine either woman turning away a customer in need. For as Idexa summed up, "For us, it's not just about giving people a good looking tattoo. It's about giving them an entire experience." ▼

Black & Blue Tattoo is located at 483 14th Street, at Guerrero, and is open from noon until 7 p.m. every day. Call (415) 626-0770 or visit www.blackandbluetattoo.com

Rug seller

◀ page 83

tional weaving techniques that had gradually faded from their culture. With start-up funds from Cultural Survival, the Ersari purchased wool and dyes for the initial rug production. Slowly, the Ersari began to employ a greater range of color and design than many other remote Turkmen tribes.

"They got them to spin yarn by hand which nobody knew. The Turkmen women had to learn hand spinning," said Halbert.

Since the first production in 1988, the Ersari Project has grown to include six Afghanistan refugee camps in Pakistan. These camps produce approximately 3,000 rugs a year and employ 750 weavers and three designers. Revenue from the very first rug production in 1988 raised enough money to cover production costs as well as some savings to be used for health care costs and assistance for their eventual return to Afghanistan.

Eventually in 1994, the Ersari Turkmen used the revenues from the rug sales to rent a building for a school and to employ six teachers and a principal. Before the current crisis in the region, 176 students were enrolled at the Ersari school.

Since last May, when Halbert opened his small shop half a block off Market Street on Sanchez, he has almost solely sold the Ersari's rugs. He also has ordered some rugs from tribes in Iran and from Tibetan monks in Nepal through projects also overseen by Cultural Survival.

Through its Tibetan Weaving Project, Cultural Exchange is helping more than 100,000 Ti-

betan refugees who have fled their homeland due to severe political and cultural repression under Chinese rule.

All wholesale proceeds from the sale of rugs made by these refugees are directed either toward the project's continued growth, or toward the benefit of the Tibetan refugee community and their children. Presently, proceeds derived from the sale of rugs are being used to pay for the education of Tibetan refugee children at Srongs-ten Birkhuti School, a traditional Tibetan primary and middle school in Boudhainath, Kathmandu, Nepal.

How long Halbert will be able to purchase rugs from both Nepal and Iran is in question. If relations between the United States and Iran do not improve, then the Cultural Exchange project there could be jeopardized. And tensions in the Himalayan country have grown since a royal assassination took place there and Maoist rebels attempted to overtake the government.

"We all thought there would have been a revolution in Nepal by

now. The Maoist takeover has not been good for Tibetan carpet industry," said Halbert. "They don't want to move to India."

Halbert, who left behind a well-paid accounting job to start his business, has always had a love for hand-woven carpets. He used to sporadically sell rugs from his garage on Pond Street before opting to enter into the carpet trade permanently.

"Some people have modern art, sculpture, antiques. I seem to be drawn to textiles, woven rugs," he said. "Either you like textiles or you don't. The people I know are rug nuts. It's bizarre."

A year after opening his doors, and weathering through a depressed Bay Area economy, Halbert said that so far, he is able to make ends meet. Though he does admit he is constantly worried about how business will be each month.

"I didn't get into this because I wanted to get rich," he said. "If I can keep the store going and pay my rent, drive my car around and be comfortable, I will be very happy." ▼

Lee & Virago

◀ page 69

son, with glamour, sex, and all the other things that make us the coolest people in the world."

Virago and Lee both stated their respective ages as "immortal," but tend to represent the young and young-at-heart members of the LGBT community. Lee, a mixed-heritage FTM/transgender/queer person and the first Asian FTM to be grand marshal, is a community activist and founder of Tranny Fest, a week-long film, video, and arts celebration dedicated to positive images of transgender people.

Virago is well-known for her work as an anti-violence advocate for Community United Against Violence, where she has brought

media attention to the treatment of transgressors at the hands of the San Francisco Police Department, and as the first-ever MTF to serve on the board of San Francisco Women Against Rape. She also fronts the band, Shawn Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family, which will perform at various Pride-related events this weekend.

This year's Pride festival will bring transgressors "back to the front of the parade," said Lee, "where they belong."

Lee credited his and Virago's grand marshal campaign with identifying and bringing together those who have felt alienated from Pride.

"Shawna and I campaigned for visibility, strength, and unity," he said. "We are both forces to be reckoned with and we are both big sinners and proud of it." ▼

Welcome Home

◀ page 86

"Then we started with dinners," Powers added.

Soon, the restaurant was serving breakfast and lunch too, and a steady stream of regular customers started to frequent the business. Powers noted that two of his wait staff - Laurel Todd and Michael Eaton - have been with him since he started.

Of course, being a gay-owned business that hires many gay staff, Powers has lost numerous employees to AIDS over the years.

"Four or five past managers have left us because of AIDS," he said.

"I've had a lot of good help," Powers added, which is one of the things he attributes to the longevity of Welcome Home. That, along with his loyal customers and the modest prices charged for meals.

"We've been through good times and bad," Powers said, echoing many local merchants who have experienced a fall-off in business since the September 11 terrorist attacks took a toll on tourism, one of San Francisco's primary industries. The attacks, combined with the dot-com meltdown, have resulted in lean times for most in the area; Powers is hopeful that things will pick up during Pride.

"Once the airplanes start filling up and the tourists start coming back we should be okay," he said.

Welcome Home has been a destination for many over the years. Powers noted that members of the San Francisco Gay Men's

Chorus would stop by after rehearsals and people attending nearby Alcoholics Anonymous sessions frequent the restaurant after meetings to enjoy coffee and fellowship. Members of the gay swimming and wrestling teams have also congregated there.

As for the restaurant's distinctive exterior mural, Powers said that it was painted in 1997 by his partner Brooks and Billy Cooper. Brooks is also responsible for the hand-written menu, while Empress I Bella has helped with interior decorating over the years.

"We try to make it home for the guys," said Powers.

Smith, the manager, has worked at Welcome Home off and on for the past 13 years.

"I started at 19 as a busboy," he said.

Smith added that the restaurant employs men and women, gay and straight. There are about 16 staff, most of them full time. The clientele is also mixed - gays, lesbians, and married couples.

Yes, the staff at Welcome Home have seen a lot over the last 25 years, but some things, said Smith, don't change.

"We're one of the few places in the city that serve grits and liver with onions," he said, acknowledging that while many today may find the latter dish unappealing, there are many longtime customers who order it. ▼

Welcome Home is located at 464 Castro Street and is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 10:30 p.m.

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